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HISTORY OF THE TOWN OF GIBSON

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DEDICATION

**THIS BOOK IS AFFECTIONATELY DEDICATED
TO THE CITIZENS AND FRIENDS OF GIBSON
WHO HAVE UNIFORMLY SHOWN THEIR
APPRECIATION, LOVE, AND ESTEEM FOR
THE TOWN OF GIBSON.**

DE
ST. ANDREWS PROTESTANT COLLEGE
LAURINBURG, N.C. 28352

FOREWORD

When the Gibson Centennial Celebration Committee was formed in 1998, one of its main objectives was to document a history of the Town of Gibson for the past 100 years.

The members serving on this committee were:

William W. Pearson -- Chairperson
Madeline Peele -----Town Board Member
Dan Liles -----Town Board Member
Archie Herring -----Town Board Member
Michael Gibbs-----Town Board Member
Ken Haney -----Town Manager
Sharon Franklin -----Town Clerk
Tonya Foland
Roxie Foland
Nelson Gibson
Carolyn Gibson
Tom Jones
Anita Jones
Kay Lea
Charles Odom
Lisa Campbell
Eugenia Odom
Sybil Lumpkin
Jack Pearson
Mason McGregor
Cecilia Pearson

I am grateful for their hard work and dedicated service in compiling and printing the material in this book. A *special thank you* goes to Nelson and Carolyn Gibson.

If documenting the history of the Town of Gibson for the past 100 years can serve to rekindle a spirit among us, it will be a renewed blessing and hope that someone in the year 2099 will see fit to document a history of their century.

It has been a privilege and an honor to have been a part of getting the history of the Town of Gibson compiled and printed.

William W. Pearson, Mayor

HISTORY
OF THE
TOWN OF GIBSON

THE TOWN OF GIBSON

There is so much more - facts, stories, legends, that could have been included in this brief history of Gibson. As you read, probably you will recall your own stories - that's half the fun!

BEGINNINGS

The Widow Gibson and her children who settled in upper Anson County, N.C. in the early 1700's didn't dream of a town bearing their name. Her grandsons came to what is now Scotland County in the late 1700's to farm the fertile soil. The present town of Gibson grew out of this settlement as described by the late Guthrie Gibson.

"Old land records date back to the time when Scotland County was a part of Anson County when it's boundary was the Mississippi River. At that time the neighboring county of Marlboro, S.C. was know as Craven County comprising about one third of the State of South Carolina. Situated on the crest of the divide between the Little and the Big Pee Dee rivers and it's water draining into both, it's geographical location played an important part in Gibson's early history.

The path of migration southward from Guilford County, N.C. and the Commonwealth of Virginia along this divide brought first a few English and many more Quakers. A traveling minister in his Journal of 1751, states that he visited the small settlement of Quakers on Green Swamp and at Piney Grove and found them in good spirits even though they had to travel "nigh unto 100 miles" to attend their yearly meeting.

Shortly after 1800 the majority of Quakers joined the great migration to the Northwestern Territory, leaving, however, some who married out of the faith and had become affiliated with other religious organizations. Their opposition to slavery led to the Quaker migration.

The farms and houses of those who left were quickly reinhabited by the new immigrants from every direction. The descendants of those who filled the gap left by the Quakers, comprise the present inhabitants of the Gibson community and includes the Pates from Wales, the Fletchers who were originally Quakers from Wayne County, N.C. the Gibsons who were Scots from Virginia, and the Adams from Ireland. Time and marriage with the "God blessed Macs" from the Cape Fear have welded the diverse elements into a unique but strong community, rich in it's many traditions."

1800-1900 A TIME OF PROSPERITY

In 1846, Noah Gibson, a descendent of the earliest Gibsons, built a store, around which grew the Town of Gibson. The store was named "Gibson Store" as it was first called. When the railroad was built the town and the store became known as Gibson Station.

During this time Gibson was a growing community with its economy based on cotton. This crop was apparently grown by small farmers rather than huge plantation owners, although there were several families who tended large amounts of acreage. The invention of the cotton gin, in 1793, simplified the processing of cotton and greatly increased the acreage planted.

The Civil War affected Gibson as it did the entire South. Men went away to fight while those at home did what they could to keep farms and households together. General Sherman and his men on their march toward Goldsboro passed just north of Gibson. Some remember their grandparents or great grandparents telling of the path of destruction left by the army.

With emancipation, farming changed, but it continues to be the principal livelihood of the community. Many freed slaves remained on the land where they were born, becoming tenant farmers.

THE RAILROAD BROUGHT GROWTH

Gibson began its post-war recovery. The coming of a railroad greatly affected the growth of the community. Now cotton could be shipped to market and supplies for the town could be brought in more often. In 1884, the first railroad, the Raleigh & Augusta Air-line R.R., began operating a daily train from Hamlet to Gibson. This railroad built a turn-table which reversed the direction of the engine so that they might pull their cars north again.

The Charleston, Sumter & Northern R.R. was built in 1891 and ran from Bennettsville, S.C. to Gibson. Later this line was bought by the Atlantic Coast Line R.R. while the Raleigh & Augusta became part of the Seaboard Air-line R.R. In 1912, the Rockingham R.R. built a line from Rockingham to Gibson which in 1921 had become absorbed by the ACL.

The coming of rail transportation caused farming to be more diversified. Highly perishable vegetable crops could now be sent to the big eastern markets. Cantaloupes, watermelons, tomatoes, cucumbers, broccoli, etc. were packed in sheds at the depots and shipped in ice laden refrigerated cars up to the north. There were two peach orchards in the area, one owned by Dr. John S. Gibson and the other by K.A. Hunsucker and Dr. J.G. Pate. These sheds afforded employment to students during the long school vacation.

As the railroads boosted the town's economy, Gibson began to show signs of growth. Two private schools, the Wyche and the Frank Gibson schools opened. Two doctors, Dr. Neil A. McLean and Dr. W.T. Pate served the populace. The Gibson Drug Co. was opened in 1887 by W.Z. Gibson. A knitting mill hummed on Main Street until it was destroyed by fire in the late 1880's. As a fitting climax to the century the village of Gibson was incorporated in 1899.



Gibson, North Carolina - Cotton is King

As the 1890's began, Gibson prospered. Cotton was King and the railroads coming to town made the growing of it and vegetables more feasible. There was plenty of labor to cultivate and harvest them. Now with freedom, former slaves were able to meet their needs, which once were supplied by their owners. New stores were opened along with other enterprises. In 1904, the Bank of Gibson was organized, followed by another one after World War I, the Carolina State Bank.



The Gibson Hotel was built in 1883 to accommodate the "drummers" who sold goods to

Gibson Hotel

the stores and commissaries owned by farmers. They rented horses and buggies for their trips to their customers in the Gibson area and other towns. Later in the early 1900's the hotel burned.

Late in the 1890's, the Southern Cotton Company built a gin and oil mill at its present location. It ginned cotton and pressed the cotton seed for its oil. The aroma of the cooking seed was like to country ham cooking and was a delight to the nose. Fertilizer was mixed at the plant from raw materials shipped in by the railroad. Hunt Food Industries bought the plant in 1955. Crushing cottonseed stopped in 1961 when the seed house burned. E.M. O'Tuel bought the enterprise in 1962 and has operated it since then. Mixing of fertilizer stopped at that time. Now it gins cotton and buys soy beans along with the sale of fertilizer, herbicides, and insecticides. The company was first managed by William Caldwell, then W.H. Webster, H.H. Pooser, A.J. Gardner, and its present manager Gerald Owens.

THE STORES OF GIBSON

The biggest business in Gibson was opened in 1904 by Z.V. Pate at a store across the street from its present building. Mr. Pate prospered and built the present building. It was a complete enterprise selling everything that a person could need, from the cradle to the grave. It was said that the building was the biggest store between Richmond and Atlanta. It had departments for everything one could need; clothes, furniture, all kinds of dry goods, groceries, a complete hardware store, every kind of farm supplies of seed, fertilizer, a grist mill, etc. There was even a funeral department. If Pate's did not have it, just place your order and very quickly they would have it.



Gibson Main Street

Pate's had a cotton gin with stalls that could hold four or five bales before ginning. There was ample space to hold a total of 500 bales. These huge storage stalls burned in 1966, the greatest

loss of any event in Gibson. Pate's bought the cotton after its being ginned. They also bought corn, wheat and soy beans; sold coal - everything! The store's managers in succession were T.G. Gibson, Vester Adams, Robert Gibson, Jimmy Dalrymple, George Hooker, Mason McGregor, and W.W. Pearson.

There were several unique features in the store. One was a freight elevator, the only one in town. Perhaps the most unique, was the manner in which money was collected or changed. In the center of the store was a stand about ten feet tall. From it ran wires to the various departments of the store. On the wires were small wooden cups hanging from wheels rolling on the wires. The clerks unfastened the cups, put the money in them and pulled a hanging rope which zoomed the device up to the stand. If there was change, the device came back with it. Miss Pearl Teal ran device for years followed by Mrs. Leila McDonald who operated it until cash registers were installed.

Another department store was opened by W.D. Reynolds across the railroad tracks. It was particularly for the household needs. During the depression, Mr. Reynolds closed the store. Later he was elected Sheriff of Scotland, a position he held for several years.

Besides these two department stores there were a millinery shop, meat markets run by S.S. Stutts, John Bullard, and Hubert Odom. Beef came from an abattoir run by Pate's when needed. There were grocery stores run by Legget Odom, Kirkwood Gibson, Willis Peele. An ice house, a dime store, a cobbler run by Mr. Teal, father of Charlie Teal the blacksmith. Two barbershops cut hair and shaved the men. Women for a while had a beauty shop.

Wade Hampton McInnis ran a store beside the railroad. He was a victim of the flu epidemic of 1918. Mrs. McInnis sold the store, bought a house, began a vocation as a seamstress and raised her family of seven. In a room at the end of the store Lawrence Gibson ran the Postal Telegraph Office. During the day farmers gathered around the office to find out the latest prices for cotton. It was a favorite gathering place.

LOSS OF PROSPERITY

Prosperity was not always to be. After World War I, the hotel burned, the boll weevil came and then the great depression struck. Cotton prices fell and farmers could scarcely make a living. Tenant farmers were caught as a share of the crop, one third of the gross receipts, could not provide them a living. Industry in the north and nearby cities paid wages, more than they could make on the farm. Bit by bit they left the farm for employment in the cities.

As people left the farms, the stores in Gibson suffered for lack of business. Gradually many were forced to close. By the end of the 20th Century only three convenience stores and a restaurant were open. One or two shops opened spasmodically.

As people left, the farmers could not grow vegetables which required a lot of hand labor. So they were forced to mechanize their farms. No longer was there labor to cultivate cotton and

pick it. Cotton pickers were hauled in daily from nearby cities. Sometimes, even that was not sufficient. Tractors and cotton picking machines were the only solution. Small farmers could not afford mechanization. So their farms were incorporated into larger farms by sale. Federal government tried to help by the "soil bank," whereby parcels or the whole farm were rented to the government for a period of years.

Paved roads, automobiles, and chain stores in nearby towns meant that people went to them for their needs. Business in Gibson stagnated and the town ceased to grow. Main Street and its continuation to Laurinburg had been paved in 1924.

Electricity from a generator, located at Pate's Pond near St. John's Church, came at the beginning of the century. Water and sewer service came about that time also. The telephone came a few years earlier and Gladys Wright was a pioneer operator at the switch board. About this time Gibson had a newspaper The Vidette. However, it did not last long.

MEDICAL CARE:

During the first half of the 1900's, Gibson had fine medical care. After his father, Dr. James G. Pate succeeded him. Dr. John S. Gibson and Dr. E.A. Livingston cared for our needs making house calls to deliver babies and curing aches and pains. Dr. J.M. Gardner cared for our teeth. Dr. Livingston was honored by his alma mater, the University of Maryland, at a banquet as a Distinguished Alumnus. Dr. Pate was honored as Scotland County's Distinguished Citizen. They were the fanciest affairs in the county ever.

The last half of the century, the town was blessed with the doctors replacements, Dr. T.G. Gibson, Jr. and Dr. John Neal. Patients came from many miles around for treatment as they had for the older doctors.

GIBSON HIGH SCHOOL

One activity which involved many citizens in the 1920's was the regular community meetings when outstanding speakers addressed the group or special entertainment was provided. The Gibson Orchestra, led by Mrs. Francis Gibson would use the school for their performances. The newly built Gibson High School building was the ideal place for these sessions to be held.

There had been several schools prior to the building of the new high school. There were the Wyche, Frank Gibson, Mason's Cross, Brown, Rockdale, and Tabernacle Schools in N.C., while S.C. had Boykin and Brightsville Schools. Although these schools had only two or three rooms they produced several outstanding people. Among them was Senator L.M. Blue, for 40 years a member of the N.C. Legislature and a leader. Bishop W.W. Peele was a Bishop in the Methodist Church and served as President of the Bishop's Council. His brother Dr. Clarence Peele was President of Columbia College in Columbia, S.C.

From later graduates of the Gibson High School were several people who rose to outstanding positions. Clyde Stutts became President of the N.C. Bankers Association. James W. Mason was Chairman of the Wake Forest University Board of Trustees and a member of the N.C. Highway Commission. James McKenzie was a member of the N.C. Banking Commission and President of the Angus Cattle Association, J.C. Doster a high ranking member of the Personal Division of the Department of State of the US. These men also had high positions in many other activities.

Other people of remarkable achievements: Dr. W.K. Quick, Minister Emeritus of Metropolitan United Methodist Church, member of the World Methodist Council, preacher for the Protestant Hour, author of many articles and several books, and international known preacher and regular speaker on radio and television. Capt. Mildred Odom Car had the highest rank in the U.S. Navy for women when she retired. Mrs. Mozelle Parker, although not taught in the local school, was President of the N.C. Homemakers Association. J. Nelson Gibson, Jr. was Conference Lay Leader of the N.C. Conference of the Methodist Church, co-founder of the Methodist College, executive member of Cotton Inc. Board of Trustees, member of the N.C. Board of Water and Air Resources.

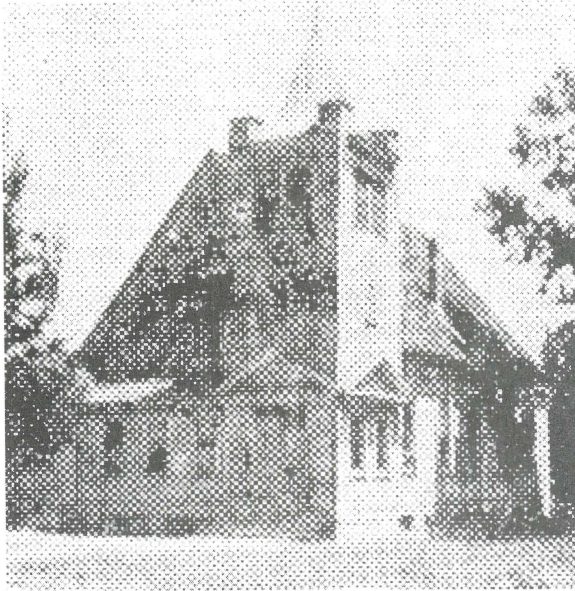
A HOUSE OF WORSHIP

Churches have always been an integral part of Gibson's history. Across the S.C. line, Boykin Methodist Church had been established in 1805 and farther north in N.C., the Tabernacle Methodist Church had grown from the Green Pond meetings held by early circuit riders who preached there in 1786. These gatherings inspired folk east of the Gibson settlement to form St. John Methodist Church. It is said that a local man, Thomas Gibson, "got religion" while at preaching services at a Zion Methodist camp meeting west of Rockingham. He was inspired to become a preacher himself; thus he came back to his neighborhood to hold a meeting in a brush arbor. The people who attended this gathering, in 1835, were moved to see a need for a church in their community. Several families who felt that a church in the town could serve a greater number banded together to give land, and materials for a small church building and to pay a preacher a modest salary. From this church grew Gibson Methodist Church, begun in 1884. Thus began the St. John-Gibson Charge of the Methodist Church.

In 1886, the Rev. J.A.W. Thomas organized the Gibson Baptist Church. Services leading to this event had taken place for two years in the old Mason's Cross School. In 1922 the present building was built. Later a recreation building, named for Francis Bullard and an education building, named for the Rev. O.W. McManus were erected on the property.

Ten years later, in 1896 Gibson Presbyterian Church was established under the leadership of the Rev. W.B. Underwood. The congregation was small but faithful as long as the church was open. The church burned to the ground and was never rebuilt.

Other denominations have contributed to the religious life of Gibson by establishing churches here, the Pentecostal Holiness Church, Church of God, and the House of Prayer and Deliverance. These and the other churches surrounding Gibson have regular services and programs.



Gibson Presbyterian Church
Rev. Frank L. Goodman Pastor
1943

CHANGES

During World War II, many of the young men and women who had recently begun to establish homes in Gibson were in the armed services. When the war ended, some did not return and many who did return, decided to leave Gibson. The community still had signs of rallying. A movie theater opened downtown as did a dime store. Marscot, a co-operative hardware, operated for a few years. A new school, later named Pate Gardner, was opened for the black community. But older businesses began to struggle.

In 1964, Gibson High School was closed and students went to Scotland High School in Laurinburg. During the decade, rail passenger service to the town ended. Public schools were integrated and buses carried students to their school. Further busing occurred in 1977 when the middle school was closed.

Efforts were made to bring industry to the town. Pinehurst Lingerie Company operated a plant for several years employing a goodly number of workers. Later the Scotland Wood Products opened a plant that made shipping crates for the glass factory in Laurinburg. Anvil Knitwear made t-shirts in a plant that ran for several years. All three enterprises finally closed. Presently the former Anvil building now houses Minot Recycling which processes jean cuttings into biodegradable stuffing and Felder Trucking Company. Officials continue to work with other people in the county and at the state level for bringing industry to Gibson.

Members of the Institute of Cultural Affairs, an organization with projects in each of the twenty-four time zones in the world, came to Gibson in May of 1978. They had a proposition that the community might have an opportunity to renew itself. These members with their co-workers offered to lead the town in a week-long consultation concerning the needs and aspirations of the town. It would be followed by a two year period concentrated on renewal. Eight people would come to the town at no cost other than a place to live. At a town meeting concerned citizens heartily agreed to invite the ICA in and to participate in the two year effort. Following the week of the consult, when the forward journey was delineated, the entire community joined in the job of revitalizing their town.

Many of the improvements accomplished while the ICA was in Gibson have since disappeared. A few remain to remind us of the two year experiment. The Firehouse Restaurant is still a popular eating place, particularly for Sunday dinner. The Firehouse "sisters" are known for singing a hymn or gospel song if asked by patrons. The old SAL depot was repaired and painted. It is the site for Gibson's "Old Timers' Room." This room preserves our rich heritage by honoring people who have contributed to the economic, social and cultural life of the community. More than a hundred photographs and a brief sketch of their lives hang on the

walls of what was the freight room. The Depot serves us as a center for community activities such as meetings, parties, elderly lunch program and other social affairs.

During the last decade of the century, a man who had spent school vacations with his grandmother in Gibson remembered how vibrant it was then. David Boone came to Gibson with dreams of revitalizing the town. Accordingly, he remodeled dwellings, stores, built some new ones. It was an exciting time.

The Town of Gibson has a long and an interesting history. It has matured its people in the faith of their fathers sending out doctors, lawyers, preachers, a bishop, dentists, scientists, soldiers, teachers, authors, musicians.

But what of the future? The foundations have been laid. The next step into the new centennial is up to the citizens of Gibson. As a wise man once said, "We can only pay our debt to the past by putting the future in debt to ourselves."

Submitted by Nelson & Carolyn Gibson

PERSONAL VIGNETTES

These are memories shared by residents, and former residents. We thank the following people and organization for their submissions and permission. "Our State" Magazine for permission to use Ms. Doster's article, Lessons of Sunday. Frank B. Gibson, Jr. for F.B. Gibson, advertising poem. Also thanks to Mildred Leak for her research and submission of "Old Timers." Nancy Monroe for history of Cedar Grove Church and her grandfather Rev. Pearson. Ms. Doster's short essay "My Home Town."

OLD TIMERS

Submitted by Mildred Leak

For years and until now, north of the Gibson City limits was a community called "Colored Town." Many black people settled near the Seaboard Coastline Railroad for the convenience of walking to and from work in and near Gibson Station which later became Gibson. In spite of living in a farming area, some men and women worked as maids, cooks, and yard hands for private families. Others worked for business, plants, and schools. Most of these folk did their cooking and washing at night because the work day began at sun up and ended at sun down.

In the early 1900's, Dr. Jim Pate made house calls with his father in the buggy. They were paid with eggs, chickens, corn, etc. After the elderly doctor passed, Dr. Jim continued being a country doctor that made house calls even in the fifties and in all neighborhoods. Whatever the sicknesses were he took care of them even if prescriptions had to be written and carried to the Will Z. Gibson Drug Store to be filled. Dr. Pate would tell the patients family members to take the prescription to the store, but the "sisters" were not to fill the prescription until he arrived. Pete Gibson had died and the sisters, Virginia and Agnes could only fill prescriptions under supervision of Dr. James G. Pate.

In the middle 1940's, the black Boy Scouts, as part of the training, were posted at the Pate Gardner School as look outs. This was during the days of World War II when black outs were done from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m each evening. They would often see Dr. Jim's car number as he was returning from house calls in the Pate Gardner School area. The school carries his name even today.

Babe and Honey McCoy had a home in Dr. Jim's back yard. They cooked and cleaned for years before John and (Iron) Ivey Lucas came to work for the doctor. These workers fired up the old iron stove with wood, plus used old iron skillets and iron pots to cook and bake in. The food was great! Dr. Pate's daughter (Mrs. Billie Floyd) and grandchildren (Jim, Ben and Kim) can witness to that.

In early years, the oil mill was named "The Southern Cotton Oil Company" until 1963, the name was changed to the Southern Gin & Fertilizer Company. Some black men who worked for this company for many years are : Cleveland (Poor Boy) Quick, Johnnie Lamb Bethea, and Randolph Johnson, just to name a few. Of course, the list is much, much longer. This company made and shipped oil, meal, and cotton seed cakes all over the U.S.A.

As it moved along the chug-a-lug Boll Weevil train slowly reached its destination while shooting dark gray smoke and heavy steam everywhere. This passenger train ran from Hamlet, North Carolina to Florence, South Carolina in the morning and came back in the late afternoon. Alex P. Broody would meet old chug-a-lug twice a day pushing the mail cart, transporting mail packages and etc., to and from the train station to the post office.

Fax Gibson was a farmer, when not clerking in his store or being a carpentry helper. He moved his family into the Green Pond Community on Old Wire Road, where the daughters are living

today, Mrs. Frances Gibson Evans, 80 years old, and Mrs. Harriet Gibson Parrott, 83 years old.

Mrs. Alberta Quick, 101 years old, is a beautiful person with the personality that everyone loves. Her daughter, Mrs. Julia McLaurin and Rev. McLaurin are still living here near her. These are members of Cedar Grove Baptist Church.

Mr. Birch Newton, Sr. lived to be 102 years old. Mrs. Annie Newton, his wife, lived to be 98 years old. Two of their daughters are still living here, Mrs. Daisy Newton Miller and Mrs. Virginia Newton. There are many generations of the Newton family still living in Gibson today.

Mr. Robert Daniel McDowell came to Gibson to do brick mason work. While here, he married Lola Freeman. To this union a son was born, Robert Carl McDowell, who is now a retired school teacher. Robert taught in North Carolina and South Carolina. He still lives here in the family home.

After serving in World War I and cutting steel for the J. & L. Steel Company in Pittsburgh, PA, Alex Leak, Sr. came back to Gibson to settle down near his mother. He farmed, ran his convenience store, and did carpentry work.

Rev. Frank Pearson started out his life in slavery as a houseboy to a family in South Carolina. This family purchased him a book, by which he taught himself how to read. Later in his life, he worked picking cotton for 25 cents a pound to buy acreage for the church he dreamed of building. The church he built was Cedar Grove Baptist Church. The building started out as a lean-to. The lean-to, possibly destroyed by fire, was replaced with the building that is in use today. Rev. Frank Pearson was the first black man to operate a "Beef and Fish Market." The Gibson Hotel ordered meats to be delivered each weekend. He also delivered to the affluent families living in Gibson. Rev. Pearson felt that his children were precious gifts from God and named them accordingly: Mrs. "Precious" Pearson Washington (91 years old), Mrs. "Jewel" Pearson Johnson (90 years old), and Mrs. "Goldie" Pearson Gibbs (87 years old.) "Silver" Pearson has passed away. The church shall be replaced in the near future with a new building and the family home still stands on Railroad Street. (Submitted by Nancy Johnson Monroe, grand-daughter of Rev. Pearson)

Mr. James "Bub" Easterling and Mr. Jim Monroe were the first to operate a dry cleaners behind the Leggett Odom Store, on what is now named Teal Street. Mr. Laurence Thomas operated a Barber Shop on Main Street for many years.

In 1926, most of "Colored Town" burned into ashes. Fire consumed twenty seven homes and two churches, Green Lake A.M.E. Zion and Cedar Grove Baptist. Rev. Percy Covington's home was saved by putting wet quilts on it. During these years, these homes and churches didn't have fire insurance. Slowly this community began to spring up again with everyone's help and is still trying to mend.

GIBSON DRUG COMPANY

Compiled by Sara Jane Hargrave Pate from newspaper clippings, interviews, and personal remembrances.



William Ziba Gibson



Sarah Florence Gibson

When William Ziba Gibson graduated from Trinity College, now Duke University, in 1887, he could never have imagined that the business venture he began would endure for 102 years. The young Will Z. and a local doctor, Dr. Neil A. McLean, collaborated in an effort to start a drugstore in his hometown. Mr. Gibson built a wooden store building on Main Street that housed the drugstore downstairs and an apartment for him and his new bride, Mis Sarah Florence Gibson, upstairs. This union would eventually produce six children, John (Jack), Allison (Pete), Willie, Sarah, Virginia, and Agnes.

As these were horse and buggy days, and most of the medicines were carried by Dr. McLean, and later Dr. W. T. Pate, it was slow going for the drugstore in the early years. However, by 1911, business was flourishing, and it became necessary to move into a larger and more modern facility. Mr. Gibson purchased a lot and building from N.T. and Edgar Fletcher, who were closing their mercantile business. The store was renovated to accommodate a drugstore. The Gibson Drug Co. remained in this location for the next forty-two years. The post office was located next door, and for many years he served as the postmaster, too. Mr. Gibson remained as druggist until his death in 1938. It was said of him at his death, "He did not operate the store with money foremost in his mind, but for the benefit of humanity. No person, no matter how poor he was, ever hesitated to present a prescription to Mr. Gibson because they knew it would be filled. By his daily life, this man won and held the confidence of the Gibson people and was loved by all."

In 1921, one of Mr. Gibson's sons, Allison McLaurin, known as Pete, graduated from the School of Pharmacy at the University of NC and returned home to become his father's partner. At his father's death, he assumed full responsibility of the drugstore with the help of his younger sisters, Virginia and Agnes. Pete Gibson's sudden death in 1943 caused new problems for the family business. Because of World War II's depletion of qualified pharmacists, the Gibson sisters were allowed to fill prescriptions under the supervision of Dr. James G. Pate. After the birth of Virginia's daughter, Sara Jane in 1949, she remained at home and kept the books there. Agnes managed the drugstore with Mr. Lindsey Odom serving as pharmacist.

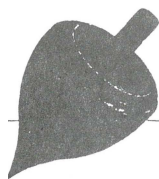
In 1952, the sixty-fifth anniversary of the Gibson Drug Co., the family sold the business to Mr. Keith Hunsucker, a Gibson native, and Miss Evelyn Stutts. Miss Stutts was originally from Cameron, NC and a graduate of the University of NC School of Pharmacy. She had worked previously in drugstores in Sanford and Lincolnton. Introduced to Mr. Hunsucker by a mutual friend, the two were married after a year long courtship. They had four children: Ginny, Larry, Beth and Forrest.

The business moved in 1957 to a newer building on Main Street. As times changed so did the drugstore business. The first major change was removing the beautiful marble soda fountain and replacing it with more cost effective display shelving. Many people will recall their earliest job as a soda jerk behind the marble counter. Among those were Dan Liles, Dorrie and Bunny Stanton, Gerald Owens, Luther Lewis, Billy Wynn, Eldred McQueen, the Dukes and Styles brothers, Ervin Parker, J.D. Gibson, Edna Sue Stubbs, Wade McInnis, Hazel Peele, and Hubert Gibson. The original wall piece behind the counter can now be seen in the main room of the Gibson Depot, as the mantle around the fireplace.

The Gibson Drug Co. always served as a gathering place for the community. Mrs. Hunsucker recalled, "The store was a favorite stopping place for area residents. They used to come by and chat...sometimes stay all day." The town's dentist, Dr. John M. Gardner, and his wife Lizzie would drop in every morning for a Coca-Cola, and L.T. and Celeste Gibson would come by every afternoon when the bank closed. Before the advent of the television, the men of the community would regularly congregate on benches in front of and beside the drugstore to talk after supper. Regulars over the years included Bob Gibson, Kelly Hunsucker, Fred Howell, Lee McColman, L.T. Gibson, Dr. Livingston, Tom Adams, and Guthrie Gibson. In the 1930's a record player was brought to the store and dancing took place after school and at night.

The hours were long, especially during the first half of the century - seven until ten on weekdays, seven until midnight on Saturday, and one until six on Sunday. Virginia Gibson Hargrave had said many times, "Those were hard years, but we have wonderful memories from our drugstore days." She also gave much of the credit for the drugstore's success to the fine doctors that served the town. She said, "Drug salesmen could not believe the volume of business we were doing in a town of less than 600 people. We always felt this was the direct result of so many people from all over coming to see our excellent doctors."

In 1989, the Hunsuckers retired and the business was permanently closed. The drugstore had served the community for 102 years, and remains a vivid part of Gibson's history.



Lessons of Sunday

In a small, rural church in Scotland County, with its simple style of worship, a young girl learned the values of life.

News that our little Presbyterian church had burned to the ground came as an awful shock, like hearing of the sudden death of a member of the family. Although the building had been standing empty for many years, the memories it held made it a treasured spot. Surrounded by tall pines, it sat on a little dirt road off Main Street in Gibson, North Carolina. Its small, white, steepled frame, sandy clean swept yard, and little cemetery marked it as a special place among the cotton fields that surrounded it.

I can still see the rows of polished maple pews, the large windows painted white on both sides of the sanctuary, the pulpit with a small lectern in front, the small choir pew with a pedal-pump organ, and a pot-bellied stove.

Church families were responsible for the care and upkeep of the church. My Aunt Ardrey and I represented our family when it was our turn. We swept the uncarpeted floors, dusted the pews, polished the furniture, and put the hymnbooks in



Lydia Carper

The church's small, white, steepled frame, sandy clean swept yard, and little cemetery marked it as a special place among the cotton fields that surrounded it.

place. The week the preacher came, we made a special effort to have flowers for the pulpit. During the winter months, the men and boys of the church were responsible for keeping the stove fired up for Sunday School and church services. I can still hear my two brothers groan when my father called out on early Sunday morning, "Get up, boys! It's time to get that fire started at the church."

Most folks in town belonged to the large Methodist and Baptist churches. Only four or five families sup-

ported this small Presbyterian church. Families in our church were very close. We visited a lot and helped each other in times of need.

Every third Sunday a minister came from a nearby town for an evening service. Because this was the only evening service in town, we always had good attendance. It was understood that one of the church families would invite the minister for supper before the church service. He usually arrived in the afternoon. This

was a time for families to hear about the work and needs of the church, share our problems and concerns, and seek advice and counsel.

A table laden with fried chicken, homegrown vegetables, cakes, and pies made it a festive time for all.

Studying in Mister Blue's Sunday school class

We had Sunday school every Sunday. There were two classes: one for children younger than 12, which was taught by my mother, and one

for everyone else. How well I remember the day I joined the “big class.” Mister Blue was our Sunday school teacher. He was a tall, skinny man with a deep tan from working on his farm, wrinkled skin, and firm, farmer’s hands. You would never believe that he was known to adults as Loch Blue, a prominent state senator and one of the most well educated men in Scotland County. He was prepared for the ministry but chose to farm instead. I knew Mister Blue was a kind and generous man and was respected by folks for what he knew and what he did to help others. But as I listened to him on Sunday, I wondered how one man could know so much. He always had a special message for the young class members, which made us feel that God knew us, too. Mister Blue seemed to know the temptations teenagers faced, often reminding us that money, large houses, powerful automobiles, and fine clothes did not “make a person.” According to Mister Blue, you have to use what God has given you and make something of yourself.

Appreciating nature’s wonders

On Sunday afternoons, Mister Blue would round up all the children for a walk down by the millpond and through the woods, explaining the beauty and wonders of nature. Even an eight-year-old gets excited over seeing a Trailing Arbutus peeking through the leaves in spring. “Don’t pick,” Mister Blue would say, “you will destroy the roots and there will be no blooms next year.”

We listened to the wild birds singing and learned their names. “Listen to their songs — don’t shoot them. They make our world a better place in which to live,” he taught.

It was here in this small, rural church with its simple, no-frills worship and Bible study — with friends and neighbors who trusted and encouraged me — that I was given the values that have lasted my lifetime.

Daphne D. Doster is a freelance writer living in Charlotte.

F.B. GIBSON, MERCANTILE CO.

*In selecting a place to spend your spare cash,
Take care that you be not unthoughtful or rash,
But go the place where bargains are had,
Where values received; thus making you glad.*

*Now, where shall I go? would be the next question.
Will you kindly allow me a simple suggestion?
I’ll give you advice, which if followed will tend
To make you more thrifty and wealthier men.*

*You go to that long and hump-shouldered store,
With a collection of trash in front of the door,
And look at the things they keep for sale,
And when you’re through looking walk back for your mail.*

*We’ll sell you good coffee at 12 ¢ a pound,
Which is free from trash and perfectly sound.
We’ll sell you tobacco at 5 ¢ a plug;
Doesn’t differ at all if you are a gold bug.*

*We keep the best potash, three balls for a quarter,
And throw in the wrapping paper as free as branch water.
Only 6 ¢ a pound do we charge you for rice,
And granulated sugar at the very same price. . .*

*We keep clothing, hats, boots and shoes,
And everything else that Americans use.
We will give you a shirt and throw in a collar,
And pair of cuffs and necktie, all for a dollar.*

*Buy a calico dress, only 5 ¢ per yard,
And we’ll put in the buttons at the same price per card.
Our shelves are just stacked with ready-made pants,
So if you’re needing some breeches, right now is your chance.*

*We can sell you the best two-blade pocket knife
For 25 ¢ you ever saw in your life.
We keep baking powder, which will make biscuits rise,
To any proportion, dimension or size.*

*We keep a variety of soap on our shelves,
Which we sell to our customers, but don’t use ourselves.
A carload of flour just in that must go,
If it’s any inducement to offer it low.*

*We keep bridles, bits, collars and hames,
And whips to use along with your Sunday School names.
We have soda, starch, pepper and spice,
And the best nickel cigar ever sold for the price.*

*We can sell you a bureau, bedstead or a chair
Fully 10 per cent cheaper than you'll find it elsewhere.
Our furnishing goods are clear out of sight,
And as for our prices we'll do you right.*

*If you ever should need a nice coffin or casket,
Don't be anyways bashful, but come in and ask it;
And we'll put you in kelter to travel that road
That leads to your last and final abode.*

*I sell the celebrated VAPOR STOVE, which does
better work with less fuel than any stove on the market.
I offer my entire stock, consisting of goods of every
description at correspondingly low prices. Call and Examine.*

Respectfully,

August 13, 1887

THE LIVERY STABLE

By Kay Hunsucker Lea

A Livery Stable was built on Main Street in Gibson by Simeon Gibson in the later part of the 19th century. Kelly Hunsucker bought it around 1915. Several years later it was moved back about two hundred yards and made to face the side street, now known as Fletcher St. The Main Street lots were made into a service station.

The Livery Stable was used to barn, buy, sell, swap and rent mules and horses. Buggies were available for rent. Mr. Hunsucker operated it for many years. It was his practice to go to Tennessee early in January and have mules shipped here by rail road to supply the farmers for the stock for the coming farm year.

Automobiles and trucks were being brought in as early as 1912 but they did not displace the need for horse drawn plows and wagons for many years, partially because of the cost of mechanical wagons and plows. Some mule stock was sold as late as 1950.

The Livery Stable still stands. It is one of the oldest buildings in Gibson. It is owned by his great-grand daughter and her husband, Winston and Gary Dwyer. They have a modern barn across the road.

MY HOME TOWN 1920 - 1930

by Daphne D. Doster

Gibson, North Carolina is my home town. A small rural community. With a magnifying glass you will find a small "out" on the south east corner of NC map, near the SC line.

First I want to describe the town of my youth, the "boom days" of the 1920's and '30's, when cotton was king, and the rich farm land produced car loads of cantaloupes, peaches, melons and vegetables shipped by rail to northern markets. To really get a feel for this busy little spot, crank up that old Ford and ride down Main Street - from the SC state line across the railroad tracks to the "City Limit" sign - about a country mile. The majority of the houses on either side of the street are one-story frame houses with space for flowers, and vegetable gardening, a chicken yard, a few have a cow. Several large colonial style homes dominate the scene. These belonged to the doctor, and the druggist. You will meet mule drawn wagons, and horse and buggies on the narrow dirt road. There will be many wagons coming to town with loads of cotton, headed for Pates cotton gin or the Southern Cotton Oil Mill. Others will be coming to buy groceries or do business at the bank.

A thriving community of well-to-do farmers, our town could boast of having three railroads and a turntable which turned the locomotive around to head back north with loaded freight cars.

I suggest you park your car or hitch your horse to a rail and walk through "downtown." Stop by a certain grocery store, and meat market. He is usually sober early in the day. On to "Uncle" Joe's meat market. Strictly business here. No time for visiting. Cross the street to Pate's Department Store, where you will find everything from ladies fine clothes to feed for stock and farming equipment. A milliner comes down from Baltimore or New York in the spring and fall to bring the latest styles and makes of ladies hats. Several of them found a husband and stayed. The drugstore is the gathering place. Wrought iron tables and chairs seem to say "come on sit a spell and have a coke!" Hard to pass by on a hot day. Drinks were made at the soda fountain from syrup and water that "fizzed." The "soda jerk" always caught the eye of teenage girls.

Should you need a doctor there are three on Main Street. Most of the time they are out making house calls. Best to stop by and get your name on the list. You will find the dentist office next to the post office. You will need a P.O. Box for your mail, since mail delivery is only made to folks living out of town.

You will find three churches in town, and as you leave town you will pass the new grade school and high school. The high school auditorium is used for meetings, musical programs, and plays.

The 20 piece Gibson Orchestra led by Mrs. Francis Gibson and, made up of local talent performs there for town free. The orchestra is quite popular and gives programs all over the county.

The Gibson Hotel located near the Depot provides room and home cooked meals for regular boarders and for visitors to town.

Passenger trains from Florida to New York roared through town on schedule. A favorite pastime on Sunday was driving down to the Depot to meet the five o'clock passenger train. Often passengers were getting off or getting on since this was our major public transportation. This stop gave us a chance to see those dining cars and watch baggage and freight be unloaded. More important it was a chance to "socialize."



Gibson Depot

THE BLACKSMITHS AND GUARD HOUSE

Submitted by Harold Teal

THE TEAL BLACKSMITH BUSINESS

My grandfather, John Teal, moved from Anson County to Gibson, N.C. area mid-summer of 1899. He worked as a miller and lived at the Henry Dees Mill at Blues Pond from 1899 to 1909. In 1909, he bought the blacksmith shop from P.H. Livingston. The shop is located on Teal Street, eventually named after John Teal. John Teal and his son, Charlie, worked together there until 1931. Charlie Teal became the sole owner of the Teal Street shop.

John and Charlie Teal did blacksmith work for the farmers in the area. They made and repaired farm equipment, shod horses. The other Teal businesses were shoe cobbler for the folks in town and during the summer months, an ice house. It would cost 75 cents to make the shoes and shoe an entire horse. In 1910, their shop became the site for "Trade Days," which was held on a certain day of the week. Owners of horses and mules would meet at the shop and swap animals with one another.

In 1935 John Teal built another shop on his homesite on Old McColl Road and operated it until his death in 1945. Charlie Teal operated the Teal Street shop until his health became bad and then I took over the shop. The shop on Teal Street has been in the Teal family for three generations. Business in the early days was busy enough to actually have three blacksmith shops in Gibson. There were the two Teal shops and one owned by Ben Webb. As time has gone by and farming equipment has changed, from wagons to tractors, the work has changed too. Occasionally, I do some blacksmith work, but mostly I refinish furniture and do odds and ends repair on things.

THE GUARD HOUSE

In the old days, Gibson had its own jail. The old jail called the "guard house" by everyone was built in 1899. It was located underneath the old water tower, behind the stores on Main Street and Teal Street. It had two departments, one for the white criminal and one for the black criminal. It could only hold two people at a time. Most of the time the police officer would lock up the people who had drank to much and got into trouble. The guard house was torn down in 1970.



The Guard House

ORIGINAL

CHARTER

Ratified February 28th, 1899 A.D.

&

ORDINANCES

Ratified August 7th, 1900 A.D.

BE IT ORDAINED

and

The Mayor and the Board of Commissioners of the town of Gibson, N. C., do ordain the following ordinances for said town, to-wit:

CHAPTER I.

Section 1. That in the ordinances of the town of Gibson, N. C., each and every ordinance shall be construed as applying in every part to all of the said town and every part thereof, and the words and phrases hereinafter set out shall have the meanings given them, unless a contrary intent appears from the ordinance itself.

Sec. 2. (a) The word "town" shall be taken to mean the town of Gibson, N. C.

(b) The word "board" shall be taken to mean Board of Commissioners of said town.

(c) The word "street" or "streets" shall be taken to mean a street or the streets of the said town, and shall include all roads and thoroughfares in the said town open to and used by the public generally.

(d) The word "alley" shall include all private ways used by the public.

Sec. 3. The Mayor shall certify up to the appellate courts a copy of the foregoing, along with any other ordinance or ordinances he may be required by law to certify on appeal from his court.

II. MEETINGS.

Sec. 4. There shall be a regular meeting of the Board of Commissioners on the first Tuesday of each month, and it shall be the duty of the Mayor, Commissioners and Secretary to attend all meetings of the Board, and in the absence of the Mayor one of the Commissioners shall act as Mayor until the Mayor shall resume his duties.

Sec. 5. The Mayor, or a majority of the Commissioners, may call a special meeting of the Board at any time.

III. COMMITTEES.

Sec. 6. The Mayor shall have the authority to meet with all committees, and when so meeting shall be ex-officio chairman. He shall appoint a committee of two on finance and three on streets.

Sec. 7. The street committee shall supervise the streets, public wells and other public property of the town.

Sec. 8. The finance committee shall audit the accounts of the Treasurer and the Constable at the end of each month, and audit all claims against the town, reporting at each regular meeting of the Board.

IV. SECRETARY AND TREASURER.

Sec. 9. The Secretary shall keep a correct minute of all proceedings of the meetings, neatly transcribed in ink, and report same for approval of the Board at the following meeting.

He shall issue all orders, summonses and notices, or other instruments not otherwise provided for, and the Board or Mayor may direct.

He shall preserve all claims and accounts presented against the town and shall file them, and shall also file other papers, written reports and books of the town, subject to the inspection of the members of the Board, and subject to their orders.

He shall keep the following books:

(a) Minute book, in which to record the minutes of the Board.

(b) Deed book, in which to transcribe all the deeds in which the town is interested.

(c) License book, in which he shall keep a record of all the licenses issued.

(d) Order book, showing on stub the number, amount, date, to whom the order was issued, and for what issued.

Sec. 10. The Treasurer shall furnish the finance committee at the end of each month with a statement of his transactions during the month, together with such information as to his office as the Board may direct. He shall report the vouchers

VII. PROPERTY AND POLL TAX.

Sec. 22. It is ordered that the following taxes be levied and collected for the support of the town:

Annually on all real and personal property, thirty cents on the hundred dollars' worth.

Annually on each taxable poll, ninety cents.

Annually on each dog, one dollar.

VIII. LICENSE TAX.

Sec. 23. Any person or corporation desiring to exercise any trade, profession, privilege, practice or franchise, or owning a dog taxed by these ordinances, shall before entering thereon, pay the tax prescribed and secure his licence, or in case of dog tax, procure the tax-tag. The tax shall be paid to the Constable, and the Secretary shall issue the license, which shall be countersigned by the Mayor. Any person or corporation failing to comply with this section shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and upon conviction shall be fined double the amount of tax chargeable to him or it: Provided, conviction under this section shall in no way operate as a release of the tax.

Each day any such trade, profession, privilege or franchise shall be exercised in violation hereof shall constitute a separate offence, and each week the dog tax remains due shall constitute a separate offence.

Sec. 24. All annual taxes levied in this chapter shall be due on the first of May each year, which shall be deemed the beginning of the license year.

The following license or privilege taxes shall be paid by each and every person or corporation exercising the trade, privilege, profession or franchise set forth, to-wit:

Sec. 25. Each merchant, jeweler, manufacturer, grocer, the proprietor of every livery stable, of every hotel or public boarding house, restaurant or eating saloon, or other business for gain lawfully taxable, except as hereinafter specially taxed, shall pay an annual tax of five dollars.

Sec. 26. The proprietor of every boot and shoe shop, harness shop, barber shop, blacksmith shop, wood shop, or

butcher shop where meats not of the butcher's own raising shall be offered for sale, shall pay an annual tax of two and one-half dollars.

Sec. 27. The proprietor or owner of every dray or wagon to let or hire for public hauling shall pay an annual tax of four dollars if for two horses, and a tax of two and one-half dollars if for one horse: Provided, that any person applying during the license tax year under this section and the two preceding sections shall be required to pay only pro rata for the remainder of the year: Provided, no license shall be issued for less than one dollar tax.

; Sec. 28. Every itinerant merchant, auctioneer or vender of goods who shall expose for sale in this town any goods, wares, or merchandise not strictly of his own manufacture (except venders of country produce) shall pay an annual tax of twenty-five dollars, or two and one-half dollars per day.

Sec. 29. Every itinerant oculist or optician shall pay a tax of one dollar per day, unless he be a licensed physician exempt by law from such tax.

Sec. 30. The itinerant vender at public auction of any patent medicine or nostrum advertised and recommended to cure man or beast, shall pay a license tax of five dollars a day.

Sec. 31. The proprietor or manager of every circus or menagerie, before making a public parade through the streets of the said town or before making an exhibition of such circus or menagerie in said town, shall pay a tax of twenty-five dollars for each circus and ten dollars for each side show for each day he exhibits or parades in said town. All persons engaging in such unlicensed parade or exhibition shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

Sec. 32. Each huckster shall pay an annual tax of two and one-half dollars, unless selling his own country produce, or unless he shall hold a merchant's license.

Sec. 33. Every horse or mule drover or dealer exhibiting animals for sale in this town shall pay a tax of ten (10) cents on every animal in the drove.

IX. COTTON PLATFORMS AND OIL MILL.

Sec. 34. No person not an employee of the Cotton Seed Oil Mill engaged in his work shall loitre or play about the same, nor shall any persons play upon the cotton platforms, nor shall any one not a superintendent, engineer, fireman or other employee, engaged in his duties, carry a lighted pipe or cigar, or any kind of fire except a lantern, about the cotton platforms: Provided, suitable notices shall be posted by the proprietors at the said platforms and oil mill, calling attention to this regulation.

X. GAMES. FIRE ARMS.

Sec. 35. No person shall play any game calculated to damage glass windows, or obstruct any street or sidewalk, or throw any stone or other missile in the streets or against any window, door or building in said town under penalty, upon conviction, of five dollars fine.

Sec. 36. No person shall discharge any firearms, bow and arrow, air-gun, bean-shooter, India rubber sling, Canton crackers or other fireworks, under penalty of two dollars fine: Provided, that any person who shall unlawfully discharge a gun or pistol from horseback or buggy or carriage in said town shall be fined ten dollars for each offence: Provided, further, that with the permission of the Mayor previously given in writing, firearms (only) may be discharged in cases of necessity; never for amusement.

XI. ANIMALS.

Sec. 37. No person shall wilfully, carelessly or negligently suffer his horse or horses, or team of any kind, whether or not attached to a vehicle, to run away through the streets or public roads of said town. Penalty, five dollars fine.

Sec. 38. No person shall run or drive any horse or mule or donkey through the town unnecessarily or dangerously fast. Penalty, two dollars fine. And no person shall ride, drive or lead any animal named in this chapter on any sidewalk, under penalty of five dollars fine.

Sec. 39. No person shall hitch a horse, mule or donkey,

cow or ox to any of the shade-trees or lamp-posts of the town. Penalty, five dollars fine.

Sec. 40. No person shall hitch cows by rope, chain or otherwise so as to allow them to graze on sidewalks. Penalty, five dollars fine.

Sec. 41. No person shall exhibit a studhorse, jackass or boar in any exposed place in the town, under penalty of ten dollars fine.

Sec. 42. No person shall knowingly allow a dead carcass to remain on his premises within corporate limits of said town longer than twenty-four hours after death. Any person violating this ordinance shall pay a fine of five (5) dollars.

XII. SUNDAY HOURS.

Sec. 43. No mule or horse drover shall turn his stock loose on the streets on Sunday between 8 o'clock a. m. and 2 o'clock p. m. Penalty, five dollars fine.

Sec. 44. No barber shall pursue any branch of his trade on Sunday. Penalty, five dollars fine.

XIII. DISORDER. NUISANCES.

Sec. 45. Any persons using publicly, profane, indecent or boisterous language, or behaving in a riotous and disorderly manner anywhere within said town, shall be fined ~~ten dollars~~ ~~for each offence.~~

Sec. 46. Any person being drunk in a public place or exposed to public view in the town shall be fined five dollars.

Sec. 47. Any person found guilty of unnecessarily loud hollowing or hallooing, screaming or making any loud or extravagant noise, except in case of fire in the town, either in the day or night time, shall on conviction pay a fine of five (5) dollars.

Sec. 48. Any person who evacuates his bowels or bladder in any street or alley, or in the woods above Bruton's blacksmith shop, or below the depot at water tank in said town, shall be fined one dollar for each offence.

Sec. 49. Any person who shall obstruct any street or sidewalk, or place a privy over any ditch, in or through the

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town, shall be fined one dollar upon conviction, and fifty cents for each day thereafter the same remains unmoved, the sum total not to exceed fifty dollars fine.

Amended
lv-8-08

Sec. 50. No prostitute, lewd woman or woman of easy virtue, shall loitre on the sidewalks, streets or alleys of the said town, or in any public place of the town. Any one convicted of a violation of this ordinance shall pay a fine of ten dollars.

XIV. BICYCLES.

Amended 12-8-1908

Sec. 51. Any person who shall ride a bicycle on any sidewalk on any street on Sunday, or who shall pass ladies or children without dismounting within not less than ten (10) feet, or who shall ride during the day without a bell, which shall be rung in not less than ten (10) feet of any person he shall pass, or who shall ride at night without a lighted lantern and a bell, shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined five dollars for each offense.

XV. SPECIAL PATROL.

Sec. 52. The Mayor of the town of Gibson, N. C., is hereby empowered to appoint a patrol for said town whenever in his discretion he may deem it necessary, said patrol to consist of not more than ten (10) men, and any person so appointed shall not be compelled to serve as said patrol more than one day and night at one time, and this special patrol shall be clothed with the powers of policemen.

Sec. 53. Any person who shall be appointed as a special patrol and shall fail to perform the duties required of him by law or secure a competent substitute shall, unless upon sufficient cause shown, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon conviction thereof shall pay a fine of five (5) dollars for each and every offence.

Sec. 54. Any person who procures himself to be put on special police and is found intoxicated while on duty shall be fined twenty-five dollars.

Sec. 55. Any person committed to the town guard-house or jail by the Mayor, in default of payment of any fine or costs imposed, may be required by the Mayor to work out such fine

and costs upon the streets or public work of the town at such rate as the Mayor and Constable may deem reasonable compensation for such work as may be done by him.

Sec. 56. Any person who shall give to or furnish the prisoners in the guard house with whiskey or any intoxicating liquors shall on conviction be fined five dollars.

Sec. 57. The Mayor, after conviction of any offender, may remit or reduce the fine or penalty imposed on such offender in view of any extenuating circumstances which may appear to him.

XVI. ELECTIONS.

Sec. 58. All elections for this town shall be held under Chapter 514, Public Laws of North Carolina, Session of 1899, and such general laws of the State as may be applicable thereto.

XVII. BUILDINGS.

Sec. 59. It shall be unlawful for any person to build or erect or construct any building of wood within the following limits, to-wit: within a perpendicular distance of one hundred and twenty-five feet of Main street at any point between E. J. Gibson's livery stable and the railroad crossing thereon.

Sec. 60. These ordinances shall be taken to supercede all ordinances in effect, but shall not be taken to repeal the same in so far as concerns prosecutions under the said ordinances in effect, or in the enforcement of the payment of penalties and taxes due, enforceable or collectable under or by virtue of former ordinances prior to the date when these ordinances go into effect.

Sec. 61. These ordinances shall be in force and effect on and after the 5th day of October, 1900.

Ratified: August 7th, A. D. 1900.

J. T. GIBSON, Mayor.

T. G. GIBSON, Secretary.

**An Act to Incorporate the Town of Gibson, in Richmond
County, North Carolina.**

The General Assembly of North Carolina do enact:

Section 1. That the town of Gibson, in the county of Richmond, state of North Carolina, be and the same is hereby incorporated under the name and style of the town of Gibson, and said town shall have all the powers and be subject to all restrictions of chapter sixty-two of The Code for the government of incorporated towns, and all acts of the general assembly of North Carolina amending the same not inconsistent with this act.

Sec. 2. That the officers of the said town shall consist of a mayor, five commissioners, a constable, a clerk and treasurer and as many policemen as may be necessary in the opinion of the said town for preserving peace and good order therein. That the mayor and five commissioners shall be elected by the qualified voters of said town as hereinafter provided. That the other officers of said incorporation shall be elected by the commissioners. That until the first election under this act shall be held and the officers found to be elected by the same shall have qualified, W. W. Goodwin shall be mayor and T. G. Gibson, W. E. Caldwell, P. R. Mason, Z. L. Gibson and Joshua Gibson shall be commissioners of said incorporation, and that the said commissioners shall elect the clerk and treasurer, constable and policemen herein provided for, whose terms of office shall expire with the term of the said commissioners.

Sec. 3. That the corporate limits of said town shall be and include all the territory embraced within the following boundaries, to-wit: Beginning at centre of stage road and at the point where said road crosses the state line, said beginning being on a ditch bridge, and running as said state line north forty-five west twenty-four chains to a stake in said line; thence north sixty-three east to intersection of road leading from Conclave to Rockingham; thence south forty-five east to said stage road; thence continuing south forty-five east thirty chains to a corner; thence south sixty-three west to the state line; thence as said state line to the beginning.

Sec. 4. That there shall be held on the first Monday in May, Anno Domini eighteen hundred and ninety-nine, and on the first Monday in May in every year thereafter, an election in said town for a mayor and five commissioners thereof; that all duly qualified electors of the county

of Richmond or such county as said town of Gibson may then be within, who shall have resided ninety days in said town next preceding the day of election, shall be qualified voters of the said town: Provided, they shall be registered as herein prescribed. That the commissioners shall appoint a registrar and three judges of election, who shall hold the election herein required. The registrar shall register in a book to be provided for that purpose by the commissioners all qualified electors who shall take the oath prescribed for electors in said county, and also an oath that they have been residents of the said town for ninety days preceding the election; that the registration book shall be kept open for the registration of voters on the four Saturdays preceding the Saturday before the election in each year between the hours of nine o'clock a. m. and four o'clock p. m., at which time and no other all electors shall be registered who shall present themselves and comply with the provisions of this act; that on the second Saturday preceding the election any voter of said town may challenge any person registered, and the constable shall serve a notice on the person challenged to appear before the registrar and judges of election on the succeeding Saturday, when and where the challenge shall be heard and decided; that no challenge shall be heard at any other time; that the registrar and judges of election shall attend at the polling place with the registration book on the day of election; that the polls shall be opened at seven o'clock a. m. and shall be closed at sunset; that the vote shall be by ballot, one ballot to contain the person voted for for mayor and the names of the five persons who shall be voted for for commissioners, which ballots may be on paper of any color, and may be with or without device. That before entering on the discharge of any of their duties the registrar and judges of election shall take such oath and in such manner as is required by the laws of North Carolina for registrars and judges of state and county elections before some justice of the peace for said county; that at the close of said election the said registrar and judges of election shall count the votes for mayor and commissioners, and the person receiving the highest number of votes for the office of mayor shall be duly declared elected thereto; and the five persons receiving the highest number of votes for the office of commissioner shall be duly declared elected thereto, and said registrar and judges shall post at some public places in said town the names of the persons voted for for each office and the number of votes received by each; and the clerk and treasurer of said incorporation shall forthwith notify the persons so declared elected of the fact of their election; and that the registration and poll books of the said town shall be deposited with the clerk of superior court of Richmond county or such county as Gibson may at that time be located in, immediately after the said election, to be safely kept by him until needed for the purpose of the next election.

Sec. 5. That no person shall be eligible to any office in said town unless he be a duly qualified voter therein. That the term of office of mayor

and commissioners shall begin on the Tuesday following the election in each year, and before entering on the discharge of his duties of the said office they shall each take the oath prescribed by law for public officers before some justice of the peace for said county.

Sec. 6. That the mayor shall preside at all the meetings of the commissioners and shall have power to call special meetings of the commissioners when he shall deem the same proper. That the commissioners shall elect one of their number mayor pro tempore, who shall fill the office of mayor during the absence or disability of the mayor. That the mayor shall see that the ordinances of the town are enforced, and shall have the criminal jurisdiction of a justice of the peace within the limits of the said town.

Sec. 7. That in addition to the powers conferred upon the commissioners by said chapter sixty-two of The Code of North Carolina and the acts of the legislature amending the same they shall have the power to open, change, enlarge or discontinue streets in said town, and may condemn land for this purpose upon making just compensation to the owner thereof. That in case the said commissioners shall decide to condemn any land for this purpose they shall appoint three disinterested freeholders in said town, who shall view the land proposed to be condemned, and after giving the owner thereof five days' notice to appear before them, and contest the matter if he so elect, they shall, if they deem the land necessary for said purposes, assess the damage whatever sum they think just, which sum shall be paid by the said town, and the owner or owners of the said land shall have the right to appeal to the superior court of said county from the assessment of said appraisers, notice of appeal to be given within ten days.

Sec. 8. That the commissioners shall have the power to levy taxes upon the real and personal property and polls in said town, the property tax not to exceed thirty cents on the one hundred dollars valuation and the poll tax not to exceed ninety cents on each poll taxable under the laws of the state, and the valuation of all property shall be the same as that at which it is assessed for taxation by the state and county for their purposes. That the taxes shall be listed with the clerk and treasurer of said town during the first twenty days in June in each year, and all persons failing to list their taxables shall be liable to a double tax: Provided, the clerk and treasurer may take a list of the taxes for each person failing to list from the returns for taxation for state and county purposes for the current year, which shall be as binding upon the taxpayer as if their taxables had been duly listed. All property and polls in said town on the first day of June in each year shall be listed, the town clerk and treasurer shall make out and complete the tax list and place copy thereof in the hands of the constable on the first Monday in September in each year, which shall have all the force and effect of an execution. That said tax list shall be a lien on all real property in said town, and all per-

sonal property shall be liable to be seized and sold on ten days' notice for taxes; and real estate may be sold for taxes by constable in the same manner as sales are made under execution.

Sec. 9. That the commissioners shall have the power to pass ordinances to be enforced by suitable fines for the preservation of the peace and regulation of the good order of said town; they shall also have the power to levy and cause to be collected such reasonable privilege taxes as they may deem proper on the professions, callings, occupations, teachers and businesses carried on in said town.

Sec. 10. That the clerk and treasurer and the constable shall each give a bond in the sum of five hundred dollars with sufficient security, payable to the state of North Carolina, conditional for the faithful performance of the duties of their respective offices and for the proper accounting for and paying over to those entitled to the same of all sums of money which may come into their hands by reason of or under color of their respective offices; that all policemen shall give bond if required by the commissioners in the sum to be fixed by them, conditional for the faithful performance of their duties; that the term of office of the clerk and treasurer shall be the same as that of the commissioners electing him: Provided, that the commissioners may remove any person holding this office for cause; the constable and policemen shall hold office during the pleasure of the commissioners.

Sec. 11. That the board of commissioners of said incorporation shall not grant license for the sale of spirituous liquor in said town, nor shall the board of county commissioners in the county in which Gibson is now located, or in which it may hereafter be located, grant any licence to sell spirituous liquors within said town.

Sec. 12. That all ordinances passed by the said commissioners shall not take effect until the same have been posted for five days at four public places in said town.

Sec. 13. That this act shall be in force from and after its ratification.

Ratified the 28th day of February, A. D. 1899.

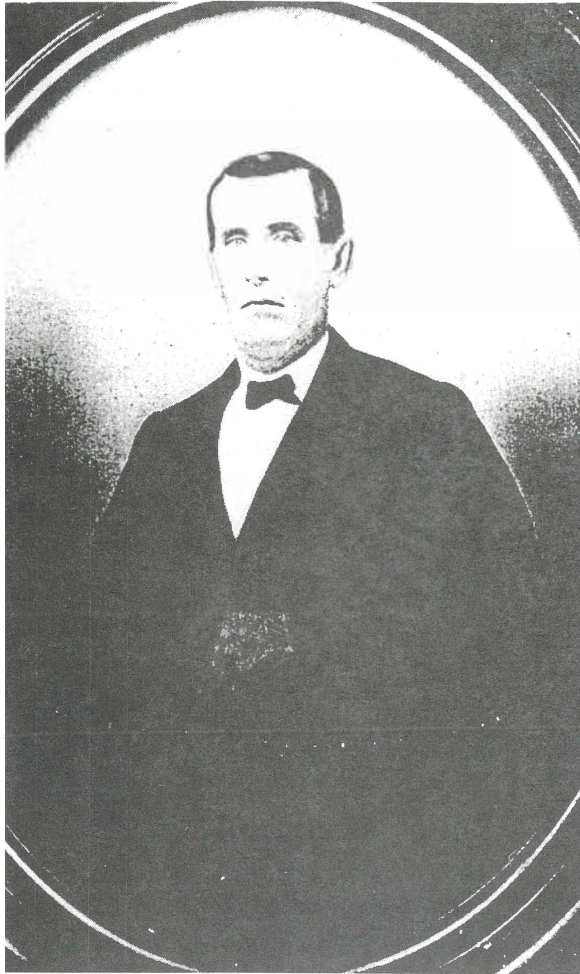
PEOPLE INSTRUMENTAL IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE TOWN OF GIBSON

The Bridge Builder

An old man, going a lone highway,
Came, at the evening, cold and gray,
To a chasm, vast, and deep, and wide,
Through which was flowing a sullen tide.
The old man crossed in the twilight dim;
The sullen stream had no fears for him;
But he turned, when safe on the other side,
And built a bridge to span the tide.
“Old man,” said a fellow pilgrim, near,
“You are wasting strength with building here;
Your journey will end with the ending day;
You never again must pass this way;
You have crossed the chasm, deep and wide --
Why build you the bridge at the eventide?”

The builder lifted his old gray head:
“Good friend, in the path I have come,” he said,
“There followeth after me today
A youth, whose feet must pass this way,
This chasm, that has been naught to me,
To that fair-haired youth may a pitfall be.
He, too, must cross in the twilight dim;
Good friend, I am building the bridge for him.”

Will Allen Dromgoole



NOAH GIBSON

Born: April 1, 1817

Died: April 1871

Parents: Nathaniel Gibson
Elizabeth Mendenhall

Married in 1840



JULIA ANN FLETCHER GIBSON

Born: 1820

Died: 1881

Parents: Joshua Fletcher
Nancy Smith

Noah Gibson was among the early settlers in this locality, then a dense forest. He went into the mercantile business in 1846. The store appropriately named Gibson's Sstore remained in operation for nearly 40 years. Later, a town sprang up and was named Gibson after this early settler. His many sterling qualities marked him as an honest man. His skill in business as a merchant and planter helped him to amass a good-sized fortune. He held his membership in the Boykin Methodist Church until his death in 1871.



MARGARET GIBSON McKENZIE
1847 - 1917

WILLIAM ATLAS McKENZIE
1827 - 1878

Shortly after the Civil War, William A. McKenzie, a master carpenter who had not fought in the War because he was crippled, came from Pekin, Montgomery County, to Gibson, to help in rebuilding the area which had been devastated by Sherman's Army. He stayed in the home of Thomas Nelson and Arena Parker Gibson. One project in which he assisted in was the building of St. John's Church.

In 1869, he married Margaret "Mag," one of the several children of Nelson and Arena Gibson. In 1878, he died and left Mag with three small children; Lou (Mrs. D.C. Roper), Annie (Mrs. E.G. Fletcher), and Willie Nelson. He also left a farm not paid for. With no outside

financial help, Mag and the children worked to pay for the farm. They tilled the soil, she took in sewing and nursed throughout the neighborhood. The farm was paid for. In the meantime, Mag was instrumental in starting a school a few hundred yards from her home, Masons Cross School. To that school, she brought fine teachers, notably, Mr. and Mrs. Frank Wyche. He later had schools in Gibson and Laurinburg. The Wyche family and other teachers lived in the McKenzie home. As long as Mag lived, she maintained an interest in the school.

Mag, who was afraid to drive her buggy over the mill dam near St. John's Church because of her small children with her, changed her membership to the Gibson Methodist Church. The McKenzie family had been active in the Gibson Methodist Church since then. In her later years, she enjoyed teaching her sewing, embroidery and crochet skills to her grandchildren. She also taught them how to play on the piano, "Jesus, Lover of My Soul."

During her seventy years, she knew no electrical appliances or baked goods from the store. It was start the fire, milk the cow, and hitch the horse. All of these made her self-reliant and strong in character and conviction.



FRANCIS B. GIBSON

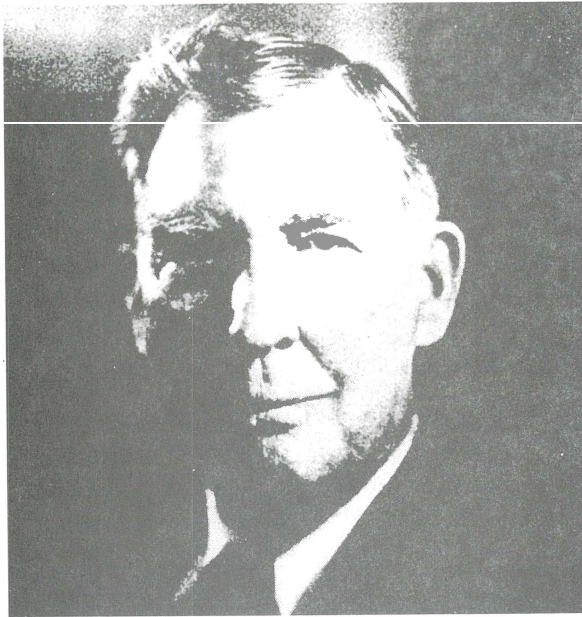


EDITH FRANCIS MOORE GIBSON

Born: October 10, 1845 Married Sept. 1, 1875
Died: November 30, 1903

Born: October 7, 1849
Died: April 1, 1906

Francis “Frank” B. Gibson was a Confederate soldier and belonged to Company “D” 26th Infantry. He was wounded near Appomattox Court House, Virginia, on the day of Lee’s surrender, April 6, 1865. Returning to his father’s homestead after his honorable discharge, he became a large planter and merchant, enterprising in business and public spirited in civic, educational and church interest. When Scotland County was formed in 1899, he was elected Chairman of the first Board of County Commissioners, and thus served until his death in November, 1903. He was the leading force in bringing the branch railroad of the Seaboard System into Gibson from Hamlet, North Carolina, and the prime mover in building of Wyche Academy, and built a large hotel. He gave the land to build the Gibson Methodist Church in which he was a teacher, a member of the Quarterly District and Annual Conferences. He was beloved and in the true sense, a public benefactor and always had in view the elevation of humanity, the betterment of morals of the people, and the glory of God.



ZEBULON VANCE PATE

Born: May 2, 1866
Richmond County (now Scotland)

Died: August 17, 1941

Parents: George Thoroughgood Pate
Mary Adams Pate

Zebulon Vance Pate was a leading Scotland County businessman and agriculturist who left behind a rich legacy of public service. He grew up in his native county and began the mercantile business that still bears his name. In 1900 he bought out the store interests of John F. McNair in Laurel Hill and this was only the beginning. He expanded the business holdings to include the Town of Gibson, Richmond, Robeson, Hoke Counties and Marlboro County in South Carolina. A 1928 biographer wrote, "His stores are thoroughly modern in every respect and compare favorably with any in the State."

In addition to the mercantile field, his business interest included banking, farming, fertilizer and textile manufacturing. He was a Director of the State Bank of Laurinburg, the Bank of Gibson and the Bank of Laurel Hill. Treasurer of McNair Investment Company and the Laurinburg and Southern Railroad. He was a Vice President of Scotland Mills, President of Dixie Guano Company, and a Director and Officer in a wide variety of other enterprises.

On December 27, 1893, he was married to Sallie Patterson McNair and they were the parents of two sons: McNair, who died when a young man, and Edwin. Also two daughters: Sarah Pate Townsend of Laurinburg, and Mary Pate Currie of Fayetteville.

He was a member of the Laurinburg Presbyterian Church and was widely known throughout eastern North Carolina for his business ability and civic interests.



WILLIAM WALTER PEELE

Born: November 26, 1881

Died: July 1, 1959

Parents: Andrew H. Peele
Lenora Jane Gibson

Born and reared near Gibson, William Walter Peele graduated from Trinity College, now Duke University. He started his career as a teacher at Rutherford College, Conoly Springs, in 1903 and later became President of the college. In 1909, he returned to this area as Pastor of St. John's Methodist Church, where he met and married Elizabeth Lytch in 1911.

From St. Johns, he went to the Aberdeen-Biscoe Charge, later he became Head Master of Trinity Park School in Durham, and then taught Biblical Literature at Duke University. During World War I, he entered Officers Training School at Plattsburg, New York and served as a Chaplain. Upon discharge, he returned to Duke University as Acting Dean for five years. From 1923 to 1927, he was Pastor in Durham at Trinity Church. The following nine years he was Pastor in Charlotte where he realized the merger of Trinity and Tryon Street Churches into Charlotte's First Methodist Church. In 1936, he was named Superintendent of the Greensboro District. In 1938, he was elected to the episcopacy and assigned as Bishop to the Richmond Area, which comprised of Virginia and Eastern North Carolina. He served as Bishop for 18 years. During World War II, he accepted the appointment of Chairman of Chaplains of the Armed Forces. Bishop Peele also received the highest honor in the Methodist Church, the Presidency of the College of Bishops. He retired in 1952, but continued to honor speaking engagements for several years.



NETTIE GIBSON COVINGTON

Born: November 17, 1892

Died: August 28, 1968

Married in August, 1957 to

John Covington

Born: 1884

Died: 1967

Parents: Millard Filmore Gibson
Sallie Gibson

Nettie Gibson went to Wyche's School in Gibson and to Littleton College. She began teaching in Gibson School when she was about 18 years old and taught in Gibson for about 45 years. Most of these years, she taught the Fourth Grade. She was known for her excellence and thoroughness in teaching the basics. Few children left her class without knowing the multiplication tables, which she reinforced with the bean bag game and other methods. She was interested in each child and concerned if they had problems in learning. She was active in the work of the community and the Gibson Methodist Church.

Miss Nettie married John Covington of Bennettsville, South Carolina, the year of her retirement. They enjoyed ten years together before his death in 1967.



TONCIE BENNETT

Born: December 25, 1892

Died: March 10, 1974

Toncie Bennett was born in Wadesboro, North Carolina, and moved to Gibson when he was just a young child. Here he was raised by Benny and Sara Bennett, not his parents. Toncie married Lottie Quick, and to this marriage was born one son, Marion Haywood Bennett. Toncie is survived by several grandchildren, who now live in Laurinburg.

As friends best remember Toncie, he worked at Pate Store, serving in many phases of work around the store, not the least of which was as grave digger. He started working as a water boy for the work crew who built the current Pate building 1908. Toncie was beloved by all. He was a friend of old and young alike. Always courteous and dependable, Toncie was respected and honored by the townspeople.



CHARLES FRANKLIN ODOM

Born: May 15, 1934

Parents: Daniel Melvin Odom 1902-1957
Mary Elizabeth Bullard 1902-1962

Married to Evelyn Scott in 1958

Charles "Pinky" Odom graduated from Gibson High School. At a later date he attended Richmond Technical College, majoring in Business Administration. After high school, Pinky served with the US Navy in Pentecola Florida. Soon after his honorable discharge from the US Navy, he met and married Evelyn Scott. They have two children: Anne Elizabeth Odom born 1960 and Charles Franklin Odom, Jr. born 1964.

Charles went to work for Luter Meat Packing Company in 1958. In 1964, he began working for Richard Adams and Dr. Tommy Gibson on their farm, and installed swimming pools for Mr. Adams. In 1975, he worked for Southern Gin. In 1977, he began working for the State ABC Store in Gibson until its close, then the Laurinburg store until his retirement in January 1999.

Pinky was certified as a Gibson Volunteer Fireman on November 12, 1964. He became the Fire Chief in 1967 and has served in that capacity for more than 31 years. He was honored as Fireman of the Year by the Gibson Volunteer Fire Department in 1997. In March of 1998, he was named as 1997 Scotland County Fireman of the Year by the Scotland County Firefighters Association.

Mr. Odom has lived in Gibson his entire life. He attends St. Johns United Methodist Church where he is Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He has served two terms as a Town Councilman; his second term as Mayor pro-tem.

THE HONORABLE MAYORS OF THE TOWN OF GIBSON

1899-1900	W.W. Goodwin
1900-1907	J.T. Gibson
1909-1911	Lauchlin McLaurin Blue (pic.)
1911-1917	J.E. Doster (pic.)
1917-1919	H.D. Gibson
1919-1937	J.E. Doster
1937-1965	L.T. Gibson (pic.)
1965-1967	J.G. Pate, Jr. (pic.)
1967-1969	John M. Gardner (pic.)
1969-1979	W.W. Pearson (pic.)
1979-1987	Sadie Odom (pic.)
1987-1989	James Bowden, Jr (pic.).
1989-1996	Sadie Odom
1996-1997	Charles Liles (Pic.)
1997 to present	W.W. Pearson

Men Wanted for Hazardous Journey

British Antarctic explorer Sir Ernest Shackleton (1874-1922) placed this advertisement in London newspapers in 1900 in preparation for the National Antarctic Expedition.

MEN WANTED FOR HAZARDOUS
JOURNEY. Small wages, bitter cold, long
months of complete darkness, constant
danger, safe return doubtful. Honor and
recognition in case of success.

-- Ernest Shackleton.



LAUHLIN McLAURIN BLUE

Born: July 10, 1865

Died: May 28, 1939

Married Mattie Mason in 1893

Parents: Angus Blue
Mary Ann McLaurin

Lauchlin Blue attended Quakenbush School and graduated from Davidson College. He taught school at Clarkton and Aberdeen. He was Mayor of Gibson around 1909. He was also cashier of the Bank of Gibson, a member of the Gibson School Board, Superintendent of County Schools, and organized the Community Meeting in Gibson in 1914. At one time, he was Editor of the Rockingham Rocket Newspaper in the 1890's.

He was a member of the House of Representatives of North Carolina. He represented Scotland County in the North Carolina Senate. He was a member of the State Hospital Board and State Board of Equalization of North Carolina.

His children with Mattie Mason were: Mary Tennyson, Marie Mason, Lauchlin McLaurin Blue, Jr., Ruth Blue Purser, Lillian, James Angus, Margaret Blue McKinnon.



JAMES ELLISON DOSTER

Born: January 1, 1875
Union County, Monroe, NC

Died: December 8, 1938

Jim Doster, the elder son of Squire John G. Doster and Sarah Elizabeth Armstrong Doster, grew up on a farm in rural Union County. IN 1896, he began work with the Seaboard Airline Railway as flagman and baggage master with headquarters in Monroe, NC. In 1905, he married Sarah Elizabeth "Bess" Crowell, a registered nurse, in Monroe, NC. Jim and Bess had two children: Daphine and Ethel. On February 9, 1908, the Dosters moved to Gibson where he was assigned as Station Agent for the SAL Railway, a position he held for 30 years. Bess Doster died December 12, 1909. Four years latter on October 23, 1913, "J.E.," as he was called, married Cora Irene Laney, a high school classmate from Union County. There were three children by this union: JE. Doster, Jr. (Pete), Velma Laney Doster (Pat), and Jerry Columbus Doster (J.C.)

From 1918 through the 1930's, J.E. owned and operated the Gale Sand Company. The "Sand Pit" was located on the Hamlet Road about 5 miles from Gibson. Sand was shipped by rail to all parts of the country for building bridges, dams and other types of construction during and following World War I.

Throughout the 25 years he served as Mayor of Gibson, J.E. strived to make his town a better place in which to live. With three railroads, unlimited agricultural resources and a large labor market to draw upon, he felt the small industries would help the community grow and provide more job opportunities. To gather facts about the Town of Gibson, its resources and opportunities, he had an Industrial Survey made by the Craig P. Gilbert Company of Washington, D.C. The report of this survey, published in 1928, was the first and only study of this kind made in this area of the State. The survey strongly recommended Gibson as a community that could support small industries. This was never accomplished because of opposition from big farmers in the area, who were afraid this would become another "mill town."



LAURENCE THOMPSON GIBSON

Born: December 4, 1896

Died: June 8, 1979

Parents: Ziba Laurence Gibson
Mary Parham Gibson

Married June 24, 1926 to

Celeste Jonas
Lincolnton, NC

L.T. graduated from Mason's Cross High School in 1915 and received a LL.B degree from Wake Forest College in 1919.

L.T. served a tour of duty in the Navy during World War I and returned to Gibson, where he was a banker for 40 years. He first worked with the Bank of Gibson, then the Carolina State Bank until 1930, when he was appointed Gibson Postmaster. In 1934, he returned to the Bank of Gibson, which later merged with the Commercial State Bank and is now the First Union Bank. He served there until his retirement in 1964. He also operated the L.T. Gibson Insurance Agency for a number of years. He taught the Men's Adult Sunday School Class of the Gibson Methodist Church for many years.

L.T.'s service to his Community cannot be told by listing the areas in which he worked. He gave of himself freely when his talents and knowledge were needed. He might have moved on to success in business and political life in his State and Nation. He chose instead to live at home, disdaining riches and worldly success, asking of life nothing more than "...to live in my house by the side of the road and be a friend to man." L.T. served as Mayor of Gibson from 1935 to 1965.



JAMES GIBSON PATE, JR

Born: April 14, 1924

Died: August 18, 1983

Parents: Dr. James Gibson Pate, Sr.
Sarah McMillian Pate

Married: Betty Hooker - 1st wife
Betty Pearson - 2nd wife

Children: James Gibson Pate III
Ben C. Pate
Kimberly Pate

Jimmy attended Gibson Grammar School and then he attended the McCallie School in Chattanooga, Tenn. in 1942. He graduated from Oak Ridge Military Institute in 1943. From 1943 to December 1945 he served in the U.S. Army in the Pacific Theater of Operations.

In 1946, he farmed and later began working in the Bank of Gibson. The Bank of Gibson merged with the Commercial State Bank and then the Commercial State Bank merged with First Union National Bank. In 1961, he attended UNC in Chapel Hill, N.C. and studied Bank Management. He was director of the bank from 1947 to his retirement from First Union National Bank in 1974.

Jimmy served as Mayor of Gibson from 1963 to 1967.



JOHN M. GARDNER, JR.

Born: 1919

Died: 1989

Married Sara Carmichael Bass

John M. Was born and raised in Gibson and was the only child of Dr. John M. Gardner, Sr. and Elizabeth Gibson Gardner. He attended schools in Gibson and went on to Oak Ridge Military School, where he graduated. In 1941, he joined the Army and became a Lieutenant. When he got out of the US Army he married Sara. This union resulted in two daughters, Sara, and Sandra.

He worked as a hail adjustor and later with Ingraham Watch Company in Laurinburg. He also owned a drug store and a car lot in Gibson to help the thriving tow in the the 60's and 70's. He was a fair and good businessman.

He became Mayor of Gibson in 1967 and served out his 2 year term.

In 1984, John M. And Sara moved to Myrtle Beach, SC, and lived there until their deaths.

By. Sandra Gardner Jacobs



WILLIAM W. PEARSON

Born: December 31, 1922

Parents: Zeb V. Pearson
Virginia Graham Pearson

Married Myrtle Martin

Bill grew up in the Ghio community and attended Gibson Schools. He graduated from Gibson High School in 1940. From 1941 to 1945, he served in the U.S. Navy Hospital Corps. In 1946, he attended Commercial Business College in Charlotte, N.C. In 1947, he was employed by Z.V. Pate, Inc., and remained there until his retirement, in 1982, as General Manager. Bill then began working for McDougald Funeral Home in Laurinburg, N.C.

Bill was elected Mayor of Gibson in 1969 and served as Mayor until 1979. He was again elected Mayor of Gibson in 1997.

During his first term in office, he worked with the Town Board members to have new water lines installed in town, and the planning was started for a new sewer system. He helped form the Gibson Development Association, and served as the first president. Working with Mr. Herbert Bruce, Trainmaster for Seaboard Coastline Railroad and Mr. William Satterwhite, President of Seaboard Coastline, Bill was able to get the train depot donated to the town of Gibson to be used as a Community Center.

Bill married Myrtle Martin April 27, 1946. They have three children: William Glenn, Virginia Karen, Elizabeth Sharon and six grandchildren: Kristi Bowden, Ashley Bowden, Pamela Bowden, Lindsay Pearson, Debbie Pearson and Cindy Pearson.



SADIE LYTCH ODOM

Born: April 9, 1923

Parents: Belton Lytch
Mamie G. Lytch

Married G.C. Odom, Jr.

Sadie L. Odom grew up on a farm in the Mason's Cross community between Gibson and Laurinburg. She had three siblings: B.P., Martha and James Lytch, Sadie being the youngest daughter.

Sadie graduated from Gibson High School in 1940 and attended Greensboro College. She married G.C. Odom, Jr. in June 26, 1940 and of this union had three children: G.C. III, and Douglas Lytch Odom of Rockingham, and Jean Yates of New London, N.C. She has six grandchildren.

In 1962 she was appointed Postmaster of the Gibson Post Office. Prior to her appointment as postmaster Sadie had worked as a postal clerk for three years in the 1940's and in 1954 she had worked in the Agricultural Office in Laurinburg as a Farm Marketing Clerk. Sadie in 1979, with 37 years of government service to her credit, became interested in the challenge of politics. Receiving encouragement from B.P., her brother who was Sheriff of Scotland County at the time, she decided to try a run for Mayor of Gibson.

Sadie Odom was the first woman in many of her political endeavors. First female Mayor of Gibson and in Scotland County. First female Chairman of the Lumber River Council of Governments for two years of her 16 year association with them. She was the first female appointed Director to serve on the Joint Regional Forum of Municipal and County Commissioners of North Carolina.

Sadie's understanding of the needs in the community has extended over a 15 year period as Mayor and since 1998 as Town Council Member. Some of her accomplishments as Mayor was to acquire a new wastewater treatment plant, extending water lines, installation of new water tank, and well. She helped to establish the depot as a community center. Additional housing units were built and older homes brought up to code. She was also instrumental in the building of a meeting room for the Volunteer Fire Department. Sadie has enjoyed her association with the people of the community and has many fond memories.



JAMES A. BOWDEN, JR.

Born: September 21, 1951

Parents: James A. Bowden, Sr.
Edith H. Bowden

Married to Elizabeth Sharon Pearson

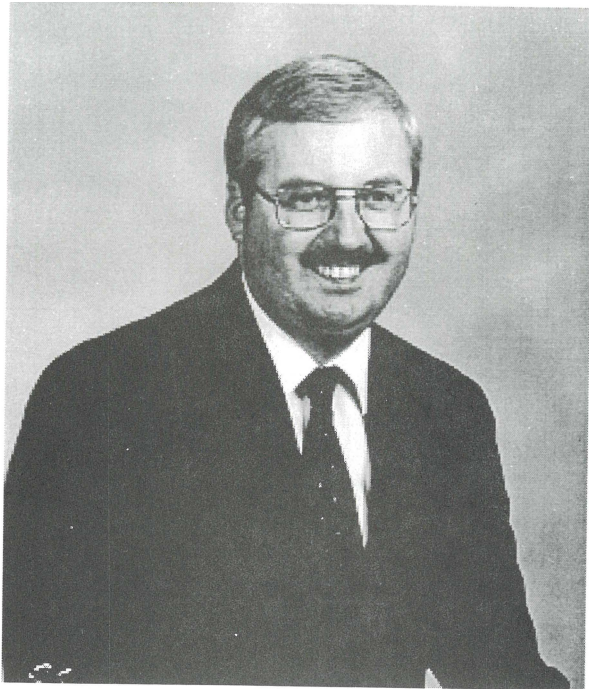
Mayor Bowden was educated in the public school systems of Scotland, Darlington (SC), and Marlboro (SC), respectively. He was a 1969 graduate of McColl High School.

Mayor Bowden was involved in the political arena for ten years while residing in Gibson. Eight of these years were served on the Town Council and Mayor Pro-tem. He served the town of Gibson as Mayor for two years, 1987 to 1989.

A few of the accomplishments during his term as mayor include; helping secure the business of First Bank and Anvil Knitwear, adoption of a complete set of ordinances for the town, refinanced sewer bonds which contributed to a significant cost savings to the town, and a land acquisition for a new water tank.

Bowden is presently serving his thirtieth year with Souther Gin and Fertilizer Company as a member of the management team.

He and his wife of twenty-five years, Sharon, currently reside in Laurinburg, NC. They have three daughters: Kristian, Ashley, and Pamela.



CHARLES L. LILES

Born: March 22, 1953

Parents Dan & Louise Liles

Married to Kimberly W. Liles

Charles was born in Bennettsville, SC, and is the oldest son of Dan and Louise Liles of Gibson, NC. In 1985, he married Kimberly. They have two children, Maggie and Sara Paige Liles. He has two sons by a previous marriage, Matthew and Adam Liles.

Charles Graduated from Scotland High School in 1971 and then from Richmond Community College in 1973 with an Associates Degree in Business Administration. He serves as Vice-President and General Manager of Southeast Farm Equipment Company.

Charles served on the Gibson Town Council for 11 years. The first period being from 1979-1989 and the 2nd period from 1995-1996. He was appointed Mayor of Gibson to fill the unexpired term of Sadie Odom, 1996-1997.

THOSE WHO HEALED

Beautiful

Beautiful faces are they that wear
The light of a pleasant spirit there,
Beautiful hands are they that do
Deeds that are noble, good and true;
Beautiful feet are they that go
Swiftly to lighten another's woe.

Socrates



JOHN SHAW GIBSON, M.D.

Born: September 15, 1879
Marlboro County, SC

Died: January 24, 1939

Parents: Joel Gibson
Sallie Lytch

Married to Edna Iona Ebert Gibson
Born: November 24, 1886
Frederick, MD

Dr. John S. Gibson attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill from 1901 until 1904. He studied medicine at the University of Maryland Medical School in Baltimore, MD and took post graduate work in Ophthalmology in New York City. He returned to his home in the Fletcher section of Marlboro County where he practiced medicine a short time before moving to Gibson. He purchased the W.B. Sedberry home located on South Main Street and remodeled it to accommodate his office and living area.

Dr. Gibson traveled to his appointments using a horse and buggy for a time and then purchased one of the first Fords made. Dr. Gibson was a gentle, beloved physician. He brought many babies into the world. People came from far and wide to be fitted with glasses and receive eye care. In his later years, he owned and operated a peach orchard.

Mrs. Gibson attended school in Baltimore, Maryland. After graduation, she worked in the Enoch Pratt Library prior to her marriage to Dr. Gibson. Dr. and Mrs. Gibson met while he was attending medical school in Baltimore. Mrs. Gibson was a Charter Member of the Gibson Book Club, an excellent homemaker and wife. Two children were born to this union: John Ebert Gibson, and Eleanor Staley Gibson.



EVERETT A. LIVINGSTON, MD

Born: November 24, 1889

Died: December 24, 1959

Parents: Joseph A. Livingston
Mollie McLean McLaughlin

Dr. Livingston graduated from the Wyche School, continued his education at the Medical College of the University of Louisville and graduated from the University of Maryland in 1912. He returned to Gibson to practice medicine. While he was a general practitioner, he specialized in tonsillectomies.

During World War I, he served as a Staff Doctor with the 82nd Division in France. After the Armistice was signed, he remained in France as a Staff Doctor. He was privileged to be present when the American Legion was organized. This interest in the Legion continued throughout his life. When the Legionnaires returned to France in 1927, Everett was with them.

He was a gourmet. He enjoyed farming and collecting antiques and junk. He never met a stranger.

In 1959, at a dinner given in his honor by the people of Gibson, the President of the North Carolina Medical Society said, "Probably no physician has given more diligently and charitably of his time than has Dr. Everett. In his office he had done very successful surgery that could not have been done in fine hospitals by someone less stout-hearted than he."



JAMES GIBSON PATE, M.D.

Born: January 17, 1892

Died: April 19, 1957

Married to Sarah Christian McMillan
November 29, 1916

Parents:

Dr. William Thoroughgood Pate
Martha Jane Gibson Pate

Dr. Pate graduated from UNC in 1914 and University of Pennsylvania Medical School in 1916. Dr. Pate was a great man, a consecrated doctor of medicine, a farmer, a banker, and a humanitarian. He was a general practitioner and proud of it. He spent himself and spared not his energies nor his health in ministrations to the sick and the discouraged. His love of people, compassion, intellectual courage and honesty were outstanding characteristics. His utter frankness and sincerity were always refreshing. He gave of his talents to anyone who needed them regardless of time or conditions.

Statistics say he traveled a million and a half miles in his years of practice and delivered 3,200 babies. He once said he saw more than 20,000 patients a year in his office on Main Street in Gibson. His charges ranged from 50 cents to \$2.00 per visit.

Dr. and Mrs. Pate were the parents of four children: James Gibson Pate, Jr., of Laurinburg; Jean (Mrs. Sidney) Smith; Christine (Mrs. Don) Jerman; and Billy (Mrs. Linwood) Floyd, of Fairmont.

Honors and Memberships - NC medical Society, Scotland County Medical Society, Scotland County Welfare Board 13 years, Scotland County Farm Bureau 21 years, Gibson School Board 15 years, Seaboard Surgeon 40 years, Atlantic Coast Line Surgeon, President and Director of Bank of Gibson 1918-1955, Chairman of Directors of Commercial State Bank 1955-1957, Chief of Staff of Scotland memorial Hospital, Staff member of Marlboro County Hospital, Chairman of Democratic Committee, a Mason, Woodman, and member of Gibson Methodist Church.



THOMAS GUTHRIE GIBSON, JR., MD

Born: July 17, 1931

Died: January 13, 1991

Married Rubbie McCormick

Parents: Thomas Guthrie Gibson

Ruth LeHew Gibson

Children: Tamara LeHew Weatherly

Khaki McCormick Joye

Thomas Guthrie Gibson, III

Ann McLaurin Gibson

“Tommy” spent his entire life in Gibson except for time away at school and in medical training. He attended Wake Forest College from 1949 to 1953, where he earned a B.S. degree in Chem-Biology. He received his M.D. from Duke Medical School in 1956. His internship was served at Tampa General

Hospital in Tampa, Florida; he was a resident there in Internal Medicine and EMT Service until 1959, when he returned to practice medicine in his home town.

“Dr. Tommy” served the community of Gibson as a physician for 32 years and was on the staff of Scotland Memorial Hospital throughout his medical career. In addition to his regular medical practice, he was a Scotland County Medical Examiner for 20 years and a member and officer of the Lumber River Council of Governments, E.M.S. For the last 25 years of his life, he also pursued his favorite avocation of farming.

As a community leader, he served as a Scotland County Commissioner for six years, four of them as Chairman. He was a member of Gibson Baptist Church and was a Charter Member of the Board of Directors of Marlboro Academy.

During his growing-up years, he was active in Scouting and was proud of being an Eagle Scout. As an adult, he was a widely known sportsman with an avid interest in wildlife, nature, and the out-of-doors. He was a member of Ducks Unlimited and NC Fox Hunters Association. He kept his pond well stocked for the fishing pleasure of his friends; the ducks he raised, were his own chief pleasure. Those who knew “Dr. Tommy” best loved him best. The most often heard tribute from his former patients was “he was not only my doctor, but my friend.”



MILTON HAROLD ODOM

Born: November 5, 1922

Died: October 1, 1995

Parents: Phillip Samuel Odom
Mollie Owens Odom

Married to Eugenia Rogers June 2, 1946

Children: Cheryl Odom Kirk
Harriet Odom Steffen

Grandchildren: Kristin Kirk
Todd M. Steffen
Scott A. Steffen

Harold spent his early years in the Brightsville Community of Marlboro County, South Carolina. He attended Brightsville Elementary School and was a graduate of Fletcher Memorial High School. In June 1941, he graduated from the Grupton-Jones College of Mortuary Science in Nashville, Tenn. He served a two year apprenticeship with J.F. Floyd Mortuary in Spartanburg from 1941 to 1943. He was a licensed embalmer of South Carolina and North Carolina. In 1943, he entered the U.S. Army and served in the European Theater in England and France.

Harold and Eugenia were married in 1946 and in October 1946 they moved to Gibson. He was employed by Z.V. Pate, Inc. Funeral Home and later he was made manager of both the Gibson and Laurel Hill Funeral Homes. In 1982, he purchased the funeral homes from Pate and operated them in the name of Harold Odom Funeral Homes. In 1986, due to medical reasons he sold the funeral homes to McDougald Funeral Home of Laurinburg, NC.

Harold served the people of Gibson and Laurel Hill and surrounding areas for 40 years. His professional career and ministry to these people was given through love of his fellowman and pride of a job well done. To him every funeral was important and deserved his best efforts to support the family and conduct a service of dignity for their loved ones.



WILLIAM KELLON QUICK

Born: May 20, 1933

Parents: Douglas Quick
Virginia S. Quick

Married: Mary Levack Quick

Children: Stephen
Kathryn
David
Paul

Dr. William Quick graduated from Gibson High School in 1950. He received his A.A. Degree from Pfeiffer College, Misenheimer, NC; B.A. from Randolph-Macon College, Ashland, VA, and his Master of Divinity from Duke University Divinity School, Durham NC in 1958. His educational highlights are: High School, Winner of the American Legion Oratorical Contest in NC - 1949; Pfeiffer College, President of the Student Government and American College Student Leader; Randolph-Macon College, Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities, Nationally ranked Debate Team; Duke Divinity School, the Frank S. Hickman Preaching Award.

Dr. Quick's appointments over the years: 1953-1954 Associate Pastor - Broad Street Methodist, Richmond, VA; 1954-1955 Pastor - Camp Glenn, Salter Path, Broad Creek Circuit, Morehead City, NC; 1955-1959 Pastor - Bahama Circuit - Mt. Bethel, Mt. Tabor, Ellis Chapel, Durham NC; 1959-1963 Pastor - First Methodist, Zebulon NC; 1963-1969 Pastor - Saint James Methodist, Greenville, NC; 1969-1974 Senior Pastor - Trinity Methodist, Durham, NC; 1974-1998 Senior Pastor - Metropolitan United Methodist, Detroit, MI.

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Third Row - Mrs. Eugene Harris, Willie Gibson, Douglas Sizemore

Fourth Row - Nelson Fletcher, Mrs. K.A. Hunsucker, Irene Joyce, Curtis Hunsucker

Gibson Book Club

Gibson, NC



In the spring of 1925, a group of women who lived in Gibson and the surrounding community were invited to the home Mrs. Berta G. Adams to discuss the organization of a club for women. That day, the Gibson Book Club was organized with Mrs. Berta Adams as the first President, Mrs. Annie B. Gibson as the first Vice-President, and Mrs. Noah F. Gibson as the first Secretary and Treasurer.

The Gibson Book Club membership was limited to 28 regular members, the wife of the Superintendent of School, and the wives of the local pastors. There would be approximately 31 members at any given time. Only when a member passed away, moved or dropped out of the club was there an opening for a new

member. Each March there was a closed meeting to replace empty membership positions. A secret ballot vote was taken. According to however many positions were empty that was how many secret ballots were opened. Those names picked were sent a formal letter of invitation to join the Book Club. The recipient of the invitational letter was required to write a formal acceptance letter to the president of the club.

The members would, in alphabetical order of their last names, take turns hosting the monthly meeting. This would mean hosting one such meeting once every two years. Each member submitted a suitable book for reading at the beginning of the year. A book was read and passed on to the next member at the end of every two weeks. The ladies were required to wear their finest dress along with matching hat and gloves. Meeting events were scheduled by the Program Committee, which sometimes would have special guest speakers.

The Project Committee was responsible for various community projects. The next time you visit the Pinecrest Cemetery and enjoy the flowering Dogwoods and Crepe Myrtles you will witness one such project the Book Club takes pride in. The Gibson Book Club raised the funds and had these trees planted in memory of lost loved ones. When the Gibson High School was in operation, a student with the highest English grade was chosen to receive a medal for outstanding achievement. Each May on Awards Day, the Book Club honors the winner of the Annual Spelling Bee of Pate Gardner, with a dictionary. They also honor their own members who die by presenting a suitable book to the Scotland Memorial Library in the loved one's name.

As of this printing the Gibson Book Club still meets each month. Many of those attending are descendants of the original members.

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Miss Anna Adams	Mrs. J.C. Hunsucker
Mrs. Vester Adams	Mrs. K.A. Hunsucker
Mrs. W.P. Adams	Mrs. J.F. Lewis
Mrs. J.E. Doster	Mrs. Miranda Litch
Mrs. N.T. Fletcher	Mrs. W.N. McKenzie
Miss Nettie Gibson	Mrs. D.A. Pate
Mrs. Annie B. Gibson	Mrs. J.G. Pate
Mrs. Edgar N. Gibson	Mrs. T.C. Pate
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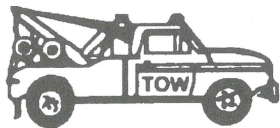
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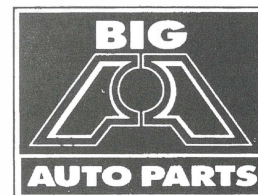
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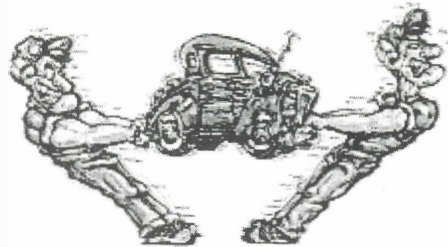
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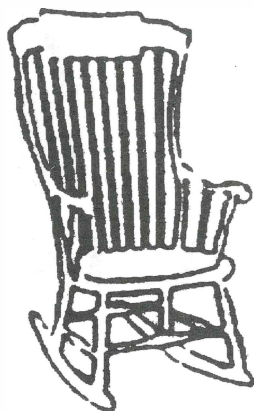
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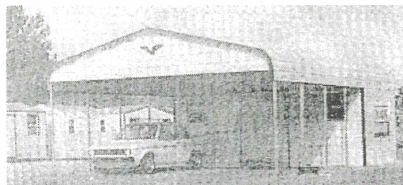
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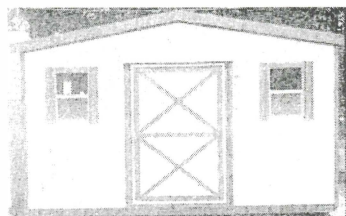
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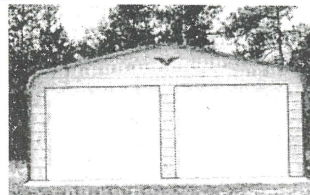
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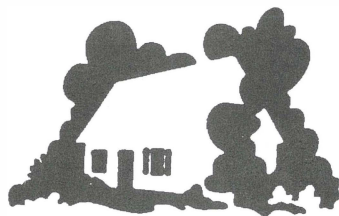
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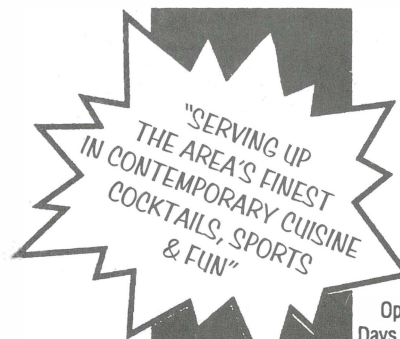
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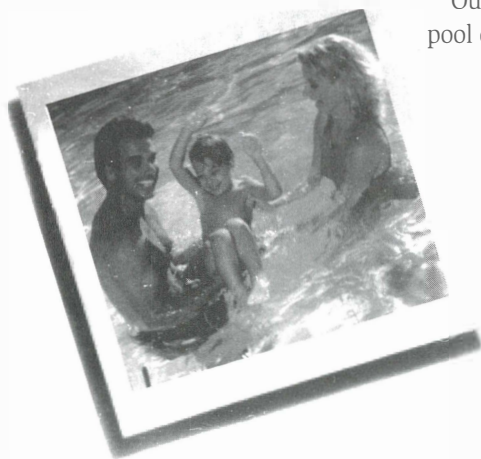
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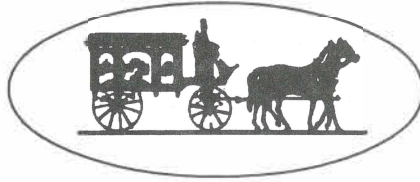
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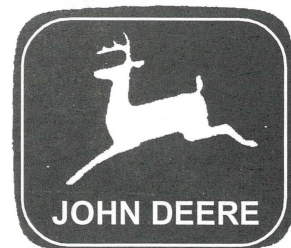
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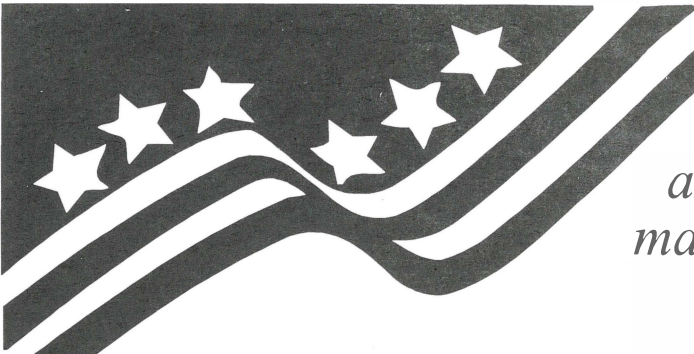
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